

[illegible]

MAKOTO YUKIMURA

[illegible]

VINLAND SAGA

BOOK SIX

BOOK-SIX

A detailed illustration of a character from the anime Vinland Saga. The character has spiky blonde hair, a small goatee, and a serious expression. He is wearing a black hooded cloak with a thick brown fur collar and a gold laurel wreath brooch. A sword is visible behind the title text. The background is a dark, textured grey.

VINLAND SAGA

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**VINLAND
SAGA**



AFTER THAT, THORFINN JOINED ASKELADD'S BAND FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF EVENTUALLY AVENGING HIS FATHER'S MURDER. HE PARTICIPATED IN MANY BATTLES AND DEVELOPED INTO A FEARSOME FIGHTER.

IN THE MIDST OF THE WAR WITH ENGLAND, ASKELADD SUCCEEDED IN FREEING THE CAPTIVE CANUTE, SECOND PRINCE OF DENMARK, AND LAUNCHED A PLOY TO CAPTURE THE THRONE. BUT AFTER KILLING KING SWEYN OF DENMARK, ASKELADD PERISHED BEFORE THORFINN'S EYES.

WITHOUT A PURPOSE IN LIFE, THE EMPTY THORFINN FELL FROM WARRIOR TO SLAVE, AND EVENTUALLY WOUND UP LIVING ON AN ENORMOUS FARM OWNED BY A MAN NAMED KETIL.

THERE, HE MET A WHOLE NEW HOST OF PEOPLE: HIS FELLOW SLAVE, EINAR; THE OLD MASTER SVERKEL, WHO HOPES TO DIE OUT IN THE FIELDS; KETIL'S SLAVE AND LOVER ARNHEID; AND "SNAKE," THE HEAD OF THE FARM'S BODYGUARDS.

IN HIS NEW LIFE WITH THEM, THORFINN GRADUALLY BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING OF THE "TRUE WARRIOR'S LIFE" THAT HIS FATHER THORS SOUGHT.

**THE STORY SO FAR
IN ELEVENTH-CENTURY SCANDINAVIA, A MAN NAMED THORS WAS THE GREATEST AND MOST FEARED WARRIOR ALIVE, KNOWN AS "THE TROLL OF JOM."**

WHEN HE GREW WEARY OF FIGHTING, HE ABANDONED HIS WARRIOR'S CALLING AND TOOK HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER INTO HIDING IN ICELAND.

ONCE THEY HAD ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES THERE, THORS MADE A LIVING CULTIVATING THE LAND AND FATHERED A SON.

THE BOY'S NAME WAS THORFINN, AND HE GREW INTO A HEALTHY SIX-YEAR-OLD UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THORS AND HIS FAMILY.

BUT THE JOMSVIKINGS, THORS'S FORMER BAND, LEARNED OF HIS WHEREABOUTS AND CAME TO DRAFT HIM INTO THE WAR BETWEEN DENMARK AND ENGLAND.

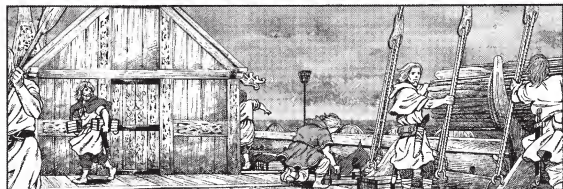
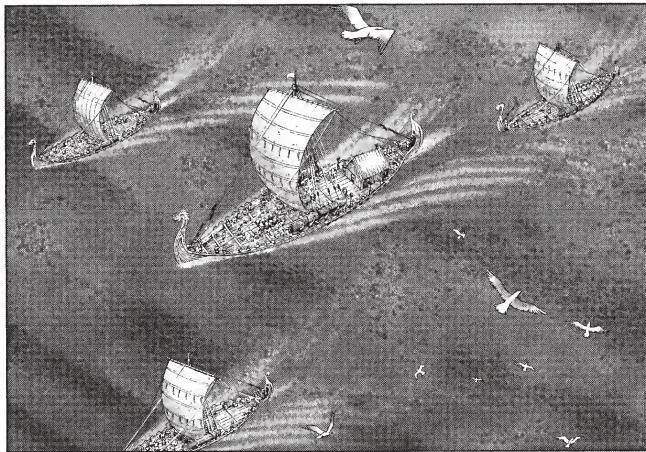
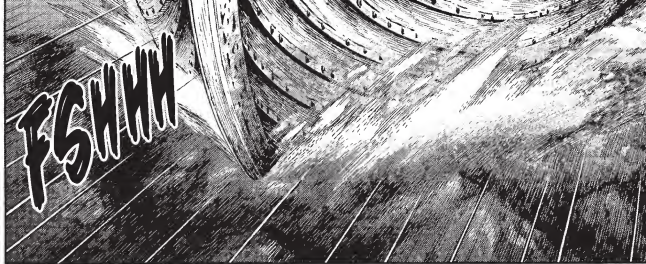
WHEN THORS WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY, HE DISCOVERED THAT THORFINN HAD SNUCK ABOARD THE SHIP OUT OF CURIOSITY AND DESIRE TO BE A WARRIOR.

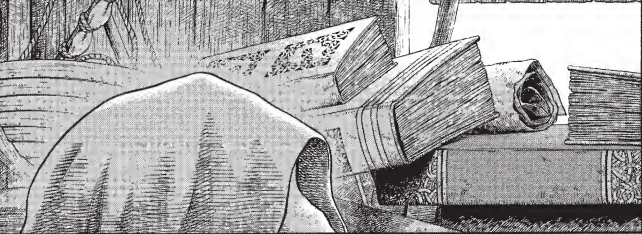
BEFORE THEY COULD FINISH THEIR VOYAGE, THORS WAS ATTACKED BY ASKELADD'S BAND OF VIKINGS, AND HE GAVE HIS LIFE PROTECTING HIS SON.

BEFORE THORFINN COULD LEARN WHY THORS HAD GIVEN UP THE SWORD FOR GOOD, HE LOST HIS FATHER...

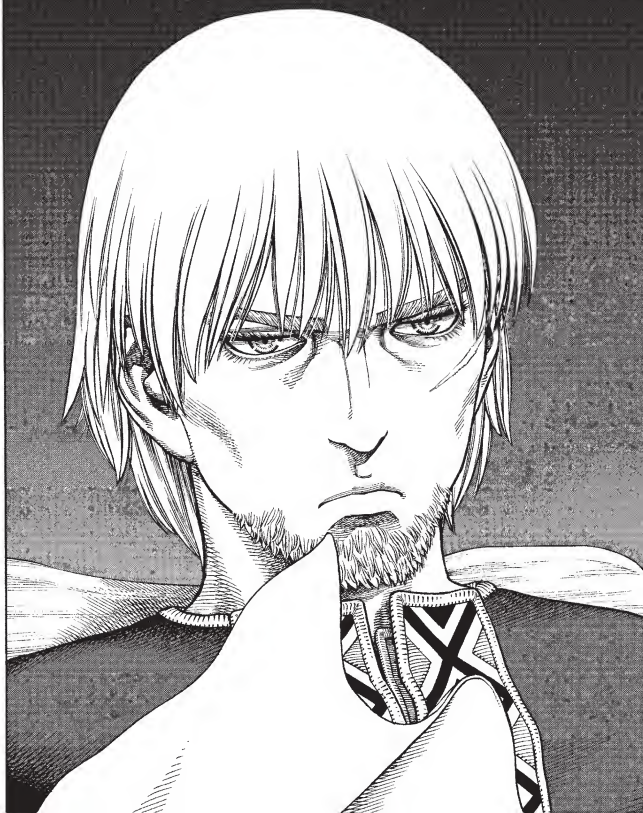
**WHAT DO WORKERS GAIN
FROM THEIR TOIL? I HAVE SEEN
THE BURDEN GOD HAS LAID
ON THE HUMAN RACE. HE HAS
MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME. HE HAS ALSO
SET ETERNITY IN THE HUMAN
HEART; YET NO ONE CAN
FATHOM WHAT GOD HAS DONE
FROM BEGINNING TO END.**

(ECCLESIASTES 3:9-11)

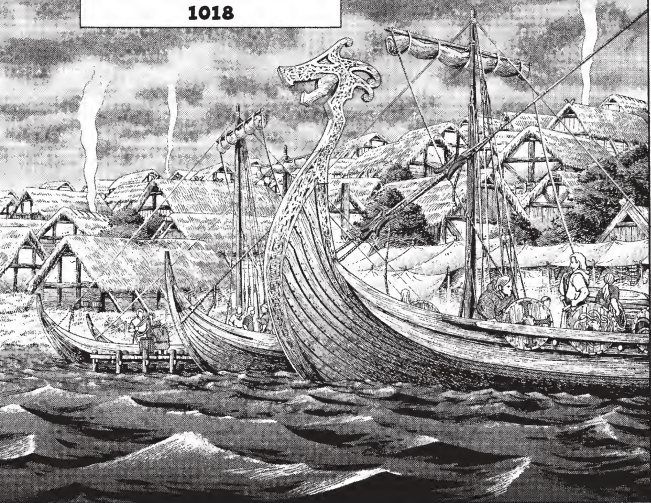


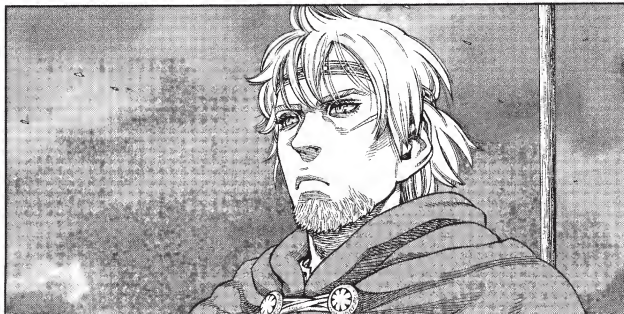


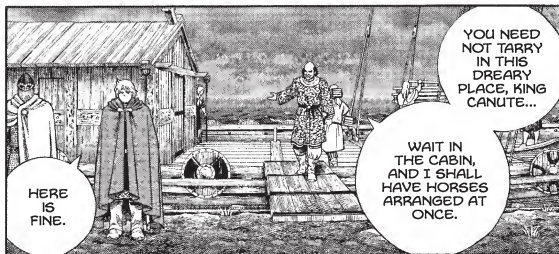
CHAPTER 72: THE CURSE OF THE HEAD



**KING HARALD'S BASE
JELLING
JUTLAND PENINSULA
DENMARK
1018**







HERE
IS
FINE.

YOU NEED
NOT TARRY
IN THIS
DREARY
PLACE, KING
CANUTE...

WAIT IN
THE CABIN,
AND I SHALL
HAVE HORSES
ARRANGED AT
ONCE.



MANY MURMUR
THANKS!

NICE CHEAP
CABBAGES! THIEF!!

STEP
RIGHT UP!
HI-YAH!

BWA HA
HA!

NEE-HEE!

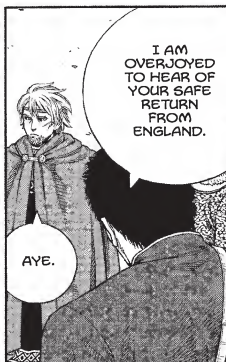
I HAVE
NOT
BEEN
HOME IN
YEARS.

I WANT
TO FEEL
THE
BREEZE.

HEE
HEE!



WULF,
HOW IS MY
BROTHER
THE
KING?



I AM
OVERJOYED
TO HEAR OF
YOUR SAFE
RETURN
FROM
ENGLAND.

AYE.



KING
CANUTE!



THE
SICKNESS
HAS ADVANCED
THIS MONTH.
HE IS UNABLE
EVEN TO
HOLD A
CONVERSATION
NOW.

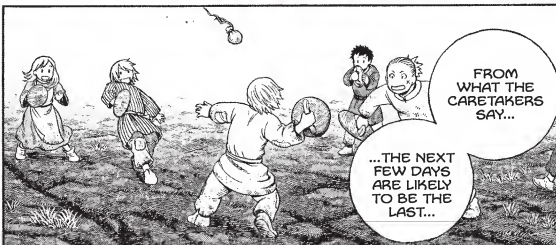
WELL...

I MUST
ADMIT
THAT KING
HARALD
IS NOT
IN GOOD
HEALTH.



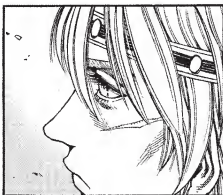
THEN HIS
TIME IS
LIMITED.

I SEE.

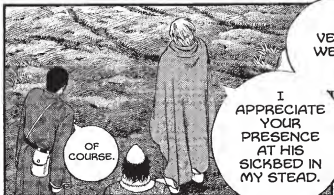


FROM
WHAT THE
CARETAKERS
SAY...

...THE NEXT
FEW DAYS
ARE LIKELY
TO BE THE
LAST...



VERY
WELL.



I
APPRECIATE
YOUR
PRESENCE
AT HIS
SICKBED IN
MY STEAD.

OF
COURSE.



...MY BROTHER THE KING WAS QUITE SKILLED AT THAT GAME.

WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN...

...BUT HE WAS NOT THE SORT TO LET THAT COMPETITION CHANGE HIS FEELINGS.

THE COURTIER'S CHOSE SIDES BETWEEN HIM AND ME WHEN THE MATTER OF SUCCESSION AROSE...

AT TIMES, HE WOULD PLAY WITH ME.



AH!

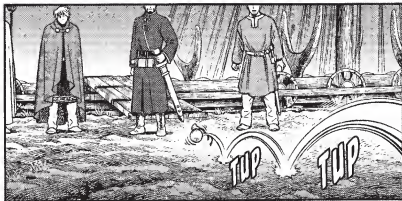


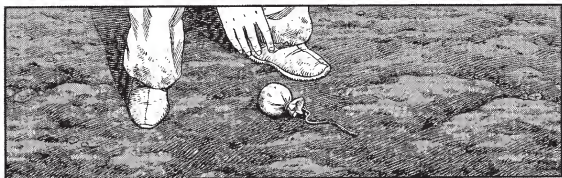
HE WAS OFTEN OF GREAT HELP TO ME DURING THE SUBJUGATION OF ENGLAND.

I OWE HIM MY THANKS...



...





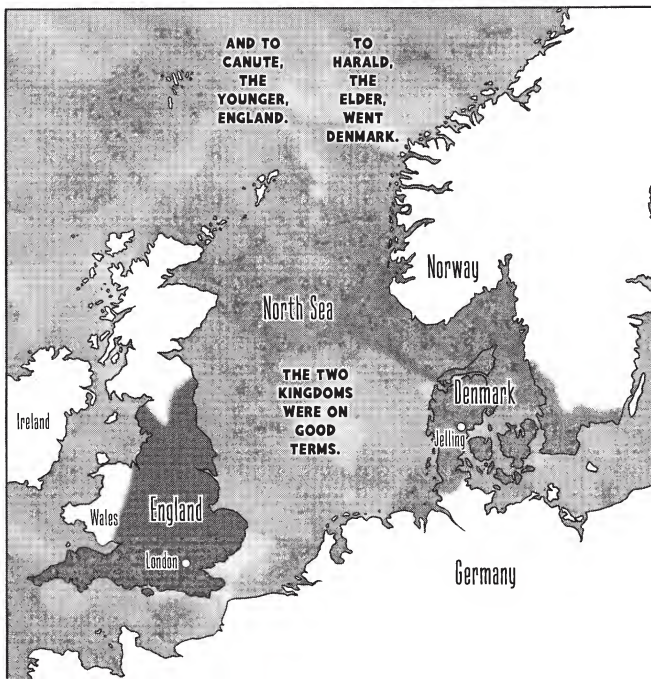
**...HIS TWO
SONS
SUCCEEDED
HIM IN
DIFFERENT
TERRITORIES.**

**IN THE
FOUR YEARS
AFTER THE
DEATH
OF KING
SWEYN OF
DENMARK...**

**AND TO
CANUTE,
THE
YOUNGER,
ENGLAND.**

**TO
HARALD,
THE
ELDER,
WENT
DENMARK.**

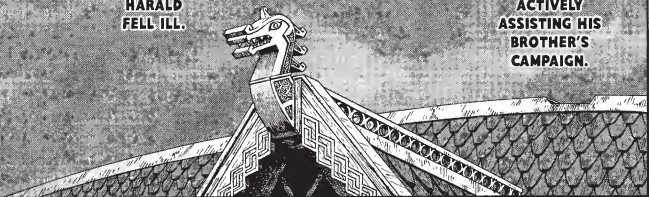
**THE TWO
KINGDOMS
WERE ON
GOOD
TERMS.**



...JUST
AFTER
CANUTE
CLAIMED
THE
THRONE OF
ENGLAND,
HARALD
FELL ILL.

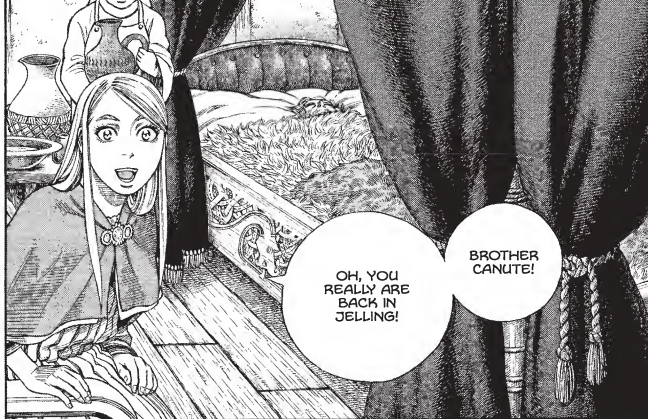
BUT
IN THE
YEAR
1018...

HARALD
SENT A LARGE
FLEET TO
CANUTE'S
AID IN
CONQUERING
ENGLAND,
ACTIVELY
ASSISTING HIS
BROTHER'S
CAMPAIGN.



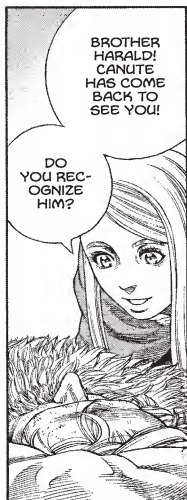
HE
HAD NO
HEIR.





OH, YOU
REALLY ARE
BACK IN
JELLING!

BROTHER
CANUTE!



BROTHER
HARALD!
CANUTE
HAS COME
BACK TO
SEE YOU!

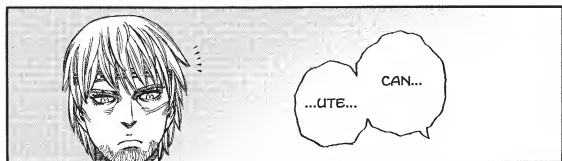
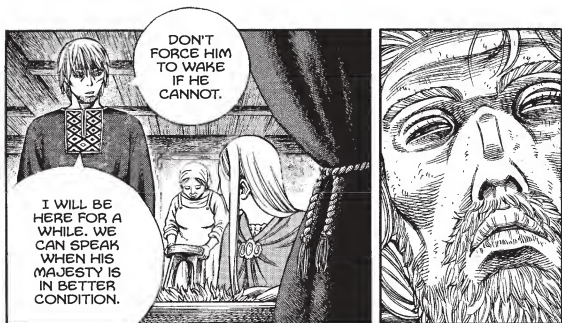
DO
YOU REC-
OGNIZE
HIM?



YOU
WILL REFER
TO ME
AS "YOUR
MAJESTY,"
ESTRID.

I HAVE
RETURNED,
KING
HARALD.

I'M JUST
SURPRISED,
BECAUSE
I WASN'T
EXPECTING
IT!



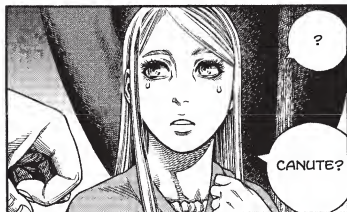
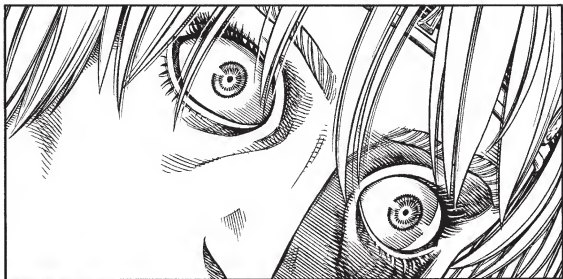


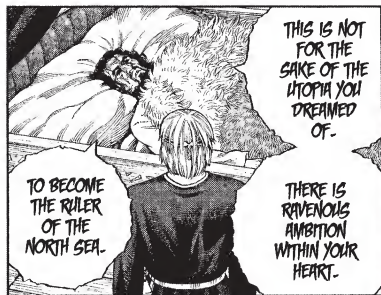


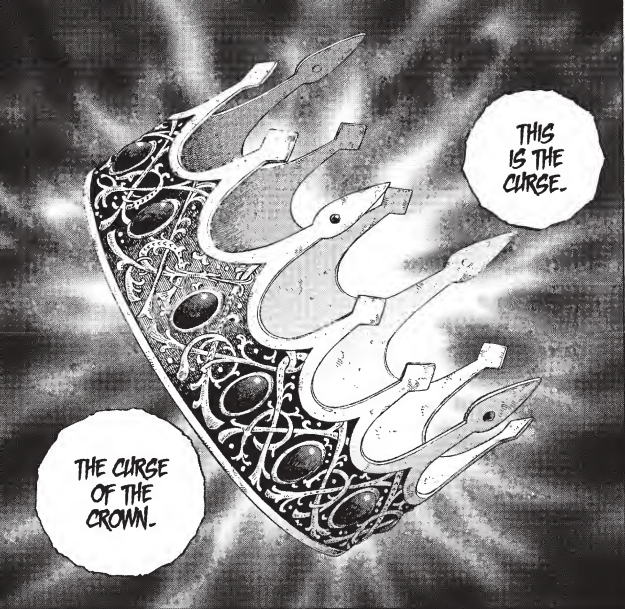


OH, HOW
YOU'VE
GROWN,
CANITE.

YOU'VE LEARNED
TO LIE THROUGH
YOUR TEETH
WITHOUT GIVING
ANYTHING
AWAY.







THIS
IS THE
CURSE.

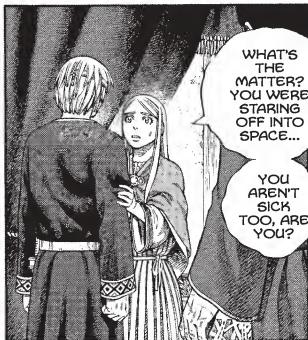
THE CURSE
OF THE
CROWN.

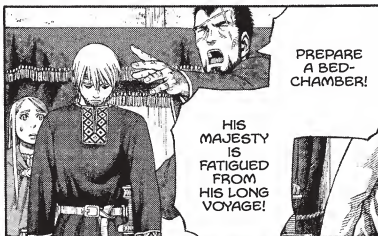


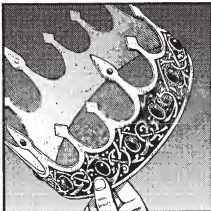
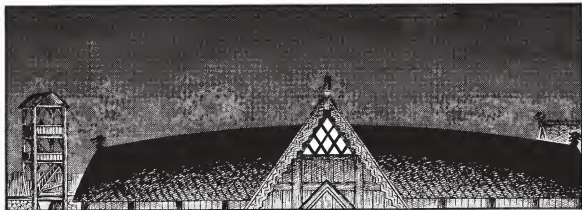
THERE
IS NO
ESCAPE.

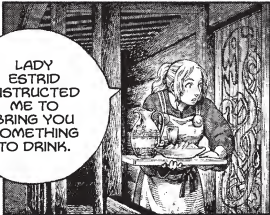
...AND YOUR
SUFFERING
SHALL BE
TWICE MINE.

YOU WILL
WEAR
BOTH THE
CROWNS OF
DENMARK AND
ENGLAND...

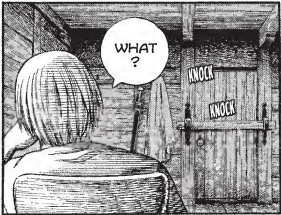








LADY
ESTRID
INSTRUCTED
ME TO
BRING YOU
SOMETHING
TO DRINK.



WHAT
?



...I
DON'T
NEED
IT.

I AM
NOT
THIRSTY.



WHERE
IS IT
FROM?

WHERE
?

UM...
WELL...

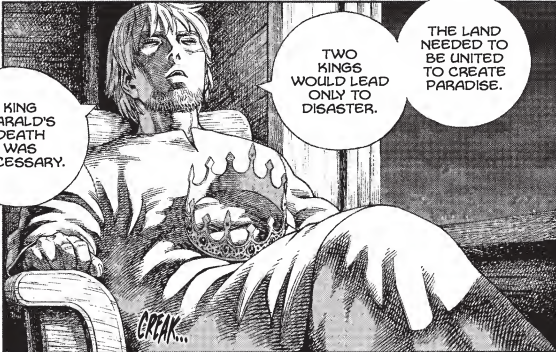


ISN'T THAT
RIGHT,
CANUTE?

YOU FEAR
POISON
BECAUSE
YOU WIELD IT
YOURSELF.







KING HARALD'S DEATH WAS NECESSARY.

TWO KINGS WOULD LEAD ONLY TO DISASTER.

THE LAND NEEDED TO BE UNITED TO CREATE PARADISE.

CREAK...



I MUST ADMIT...

...YOU'VE CERTAINLY LEARNED HOW TO THINK LIKE A KING, CANUTE.

SO AS LONG AS YOUR GOAL IS NOBLE, YOUR MEANS ARE BEYOND REPROACH.



WHY DO YOU LAUGH?

HEH
HEH
HEH...

HEH

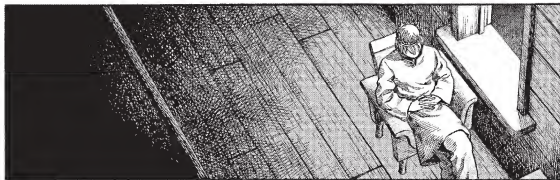


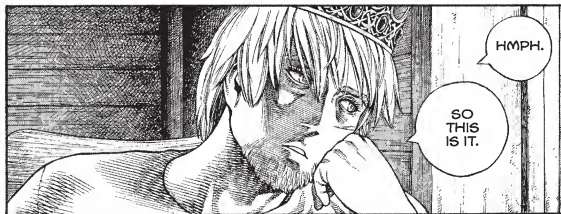
AND
LOOK
AT ME
NOW.

I ONCE
HATED YOU,
KING SWEYN.
I WISHED
FOR YOUR
DEATH.

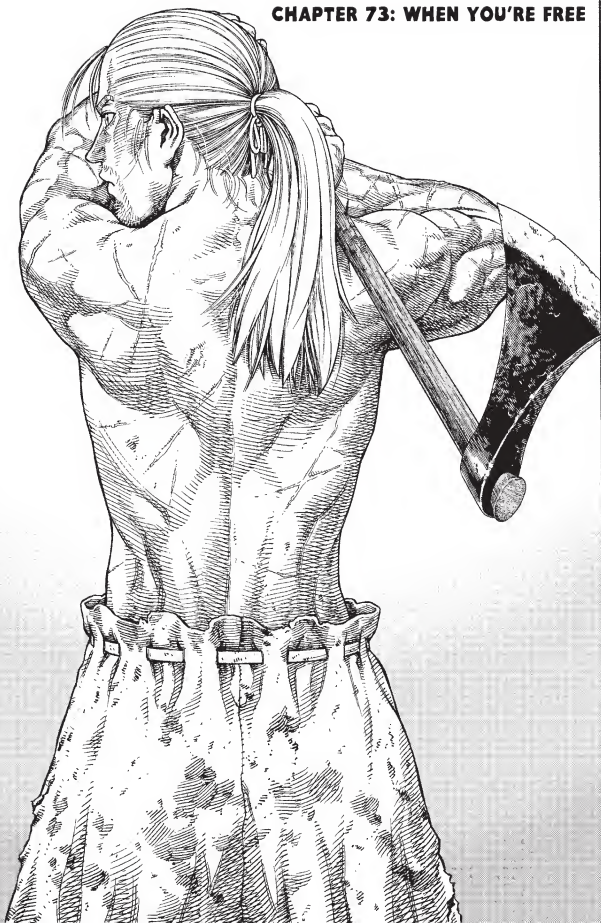


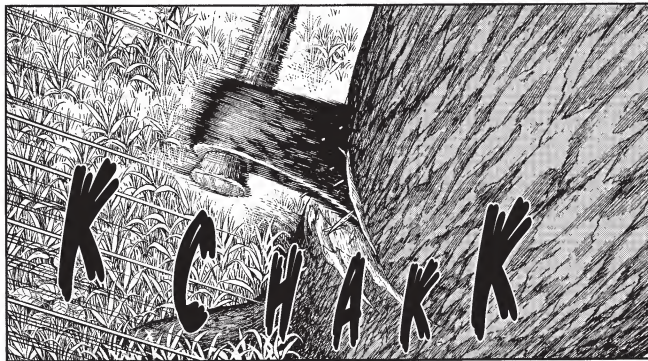
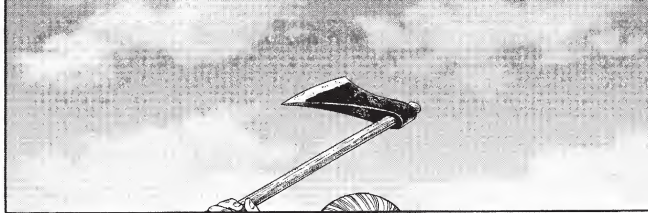
YOU ARE
THE ONLY
MAN TO
WHOM I
CAN SPEAK
MY MIND
FREELY.

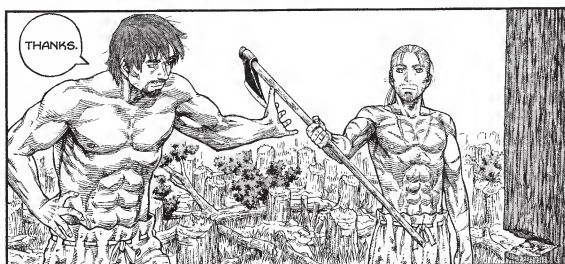


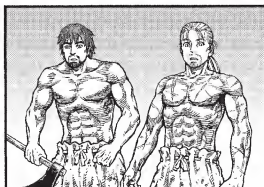
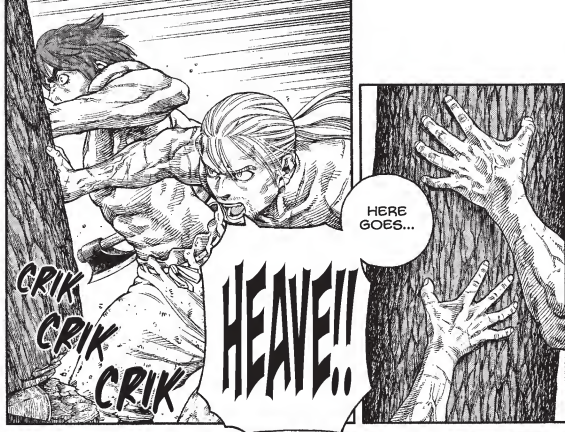


CHAPTER 73: WHEN YOU'RE FREE







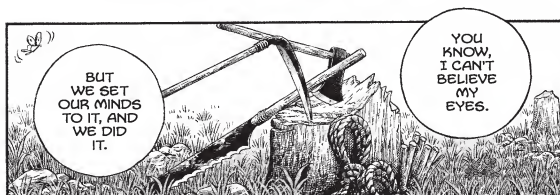


**YEAH-
AAAHH!!**

**THAT'S
THE LAST
TREE!!**

YAHOO!!

**KETIL'S FARM
JUTLAND PENINSULA,
DENMARK
SEPTEMBER 1018**





YES.

AND
IT ONLY
TOOK...
OVER
THREE
YEARS.

YOU AND
I TURNED
AN ENTIRE
FOREST INTO
FARMLAND.



WELL,
THAT'S THE
TRAGIC PART
OF BEING A
SLAVE.

HA
HA.

IF ONLY
ALL OF
THIS LAND
ACTUALLY
BELONGED
TO US.



AYE.

PATER
TOLD
ME NOT
LONG
AGO.



WE
WORKED
HARD.

IT'S
JUST
ABOUT
TIME...



AND
WITH SOME
CHANGE TO
SPARE, HE
SAYS.

...WE'LL BE
ABLE TO BUY
BACK OUR
FREEDOM.

WITH
THE NEXT
SUMMER'S
HARVEST
FROM THIS
CULTIVA-
TION...



I
SEE...

...



I'M NOT
SURE. NO
FAMILY
BACK
THERE TO
RETURN
TO...

BESIDES...

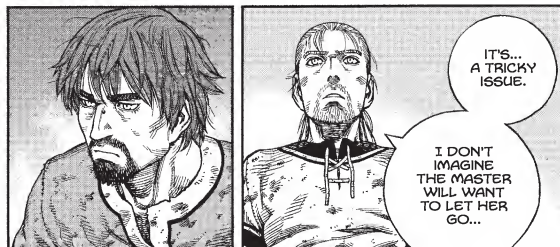
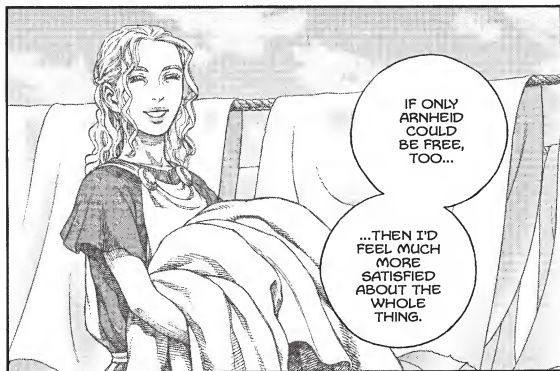
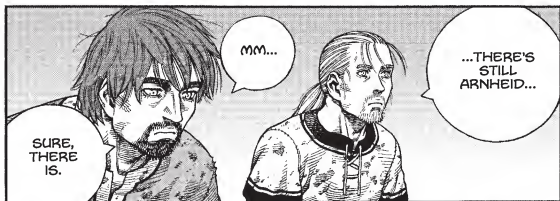


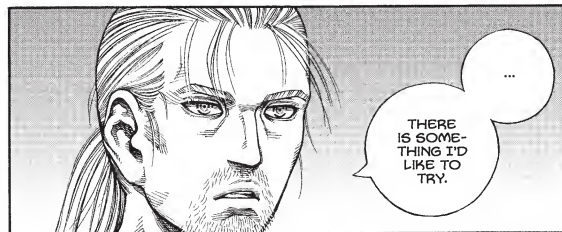
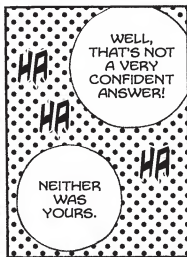
MM?

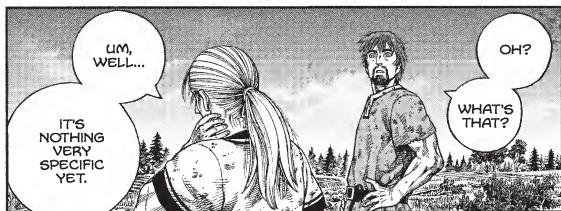
HMM...

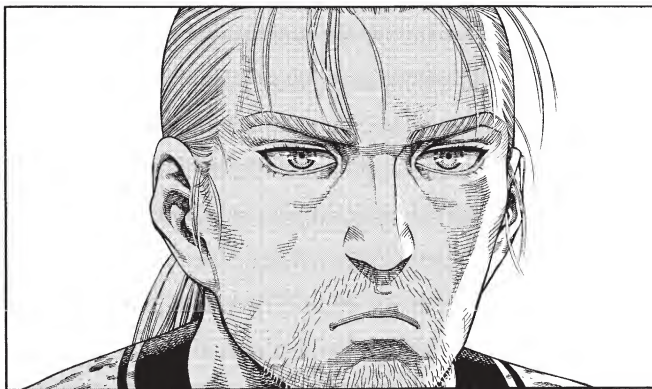
EINAR...
WHAT
WILL YOU
DO WHEN
YOU'RE
FREE?

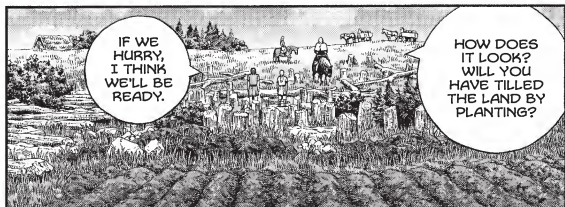
RETURN
HOME?

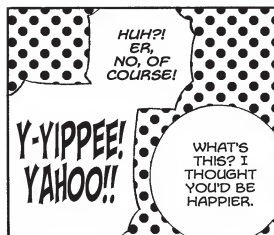




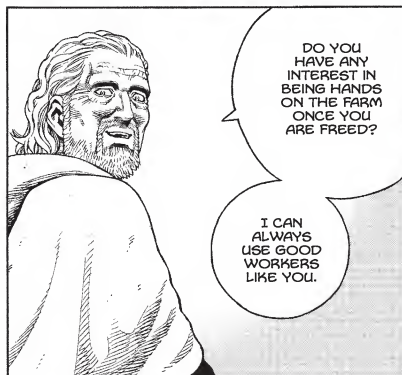
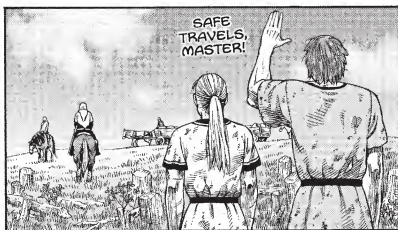






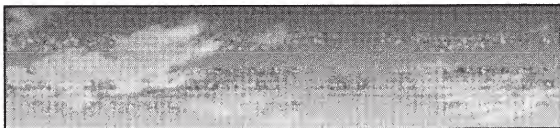






I WILL
SEE YOU
AGAIN
SOON.

WELL,
GIVE IT
SOME
THOUGHT.



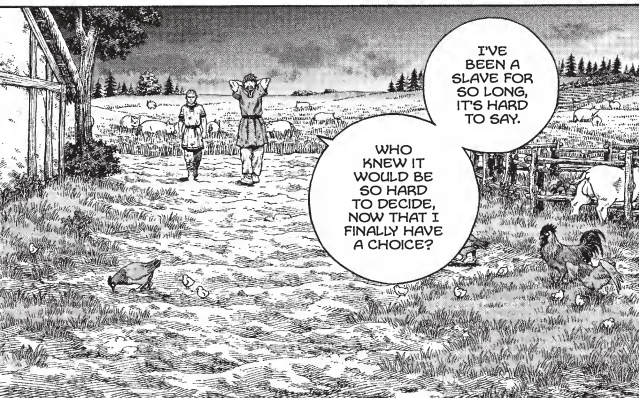
SO
THERE'S
THAT
OPTION,
TOO...

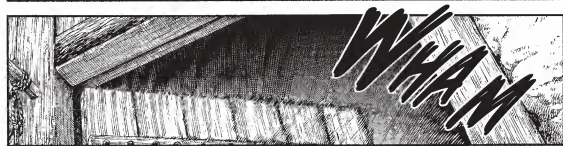
I
SEE...

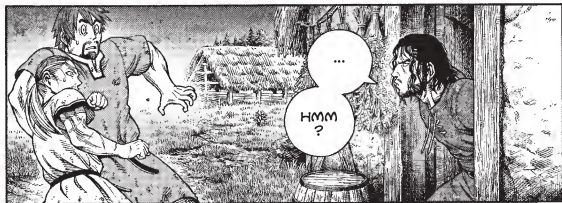


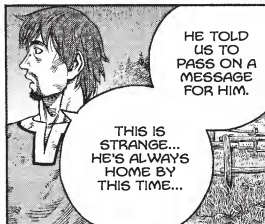
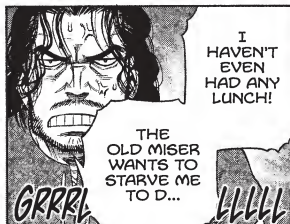
WHO
KNEW IT
WOULD BE
SO HARD
TO DECIDE,
NOW THAT I
FINALLY HAVE
A CHOICE?

I'VE
BEEN A
SLAVE FOR
SO LONG,
IT'S HARD
TO SAY.

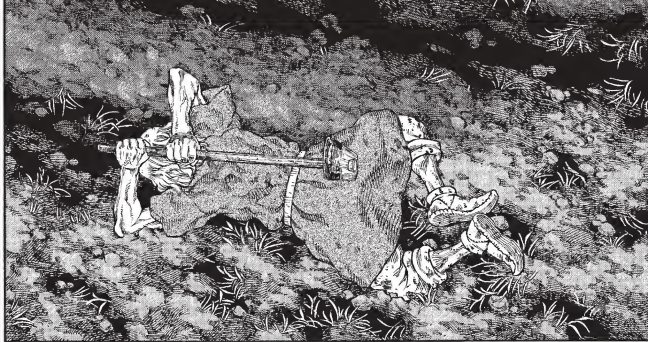










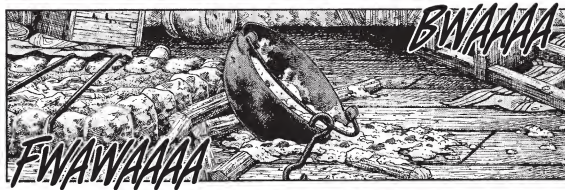


HEY!!
HEY,
GRAMPS
!!

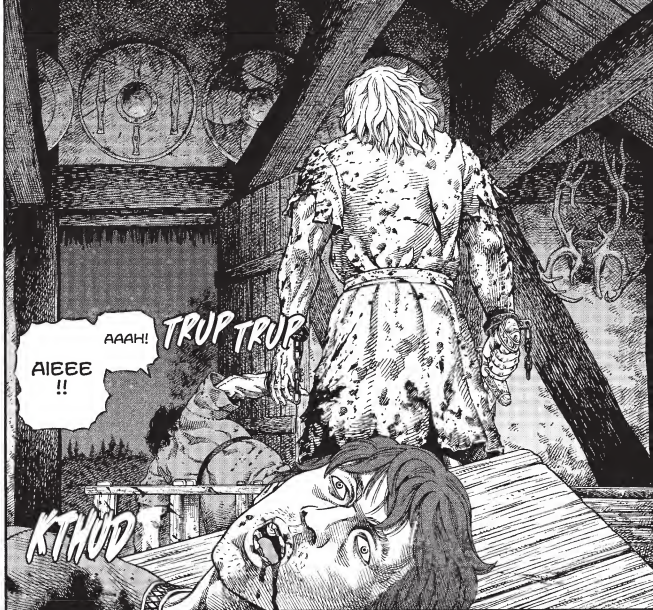


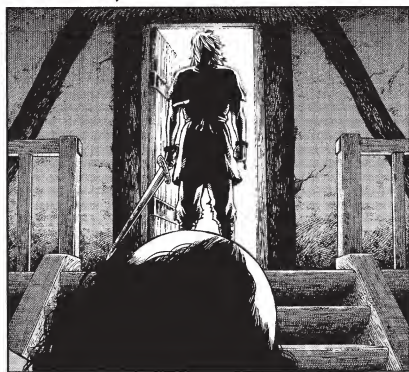
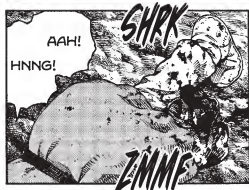
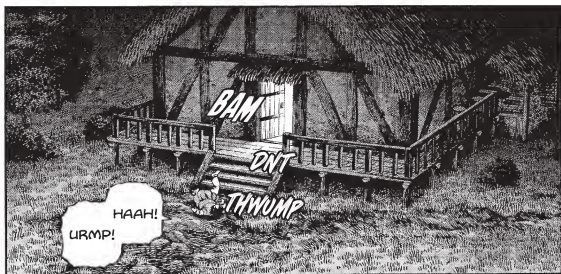


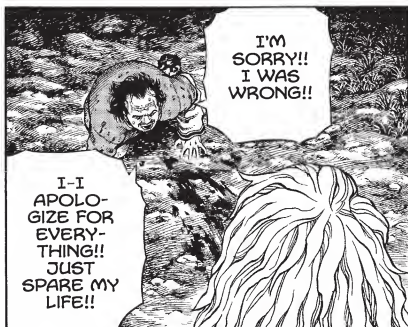
**CHAPTER 74:
ESCAPED SLAVE**











AND...
AND
GOLD!
I'LL PAY
YOU!

AS
MUCH
AS YOU
CAN
CARRY!

SHLUK...

I...I
RELEASE
YOU! AS
ODIN IS MY
WITNESS!

YOU
CANNOT
UNDO THE
HUMILIATION
I HAVE
SUFFERED
WITH SUCH
A PALTRY
OFFER.

...NOT
ENOUGH.

CLAKKATA...

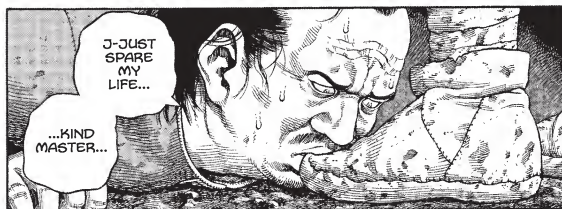
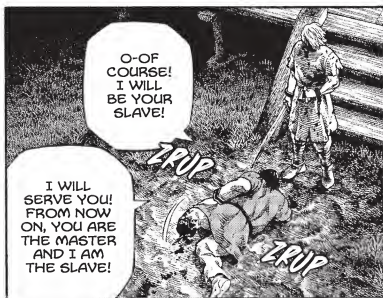
CRK

CRK

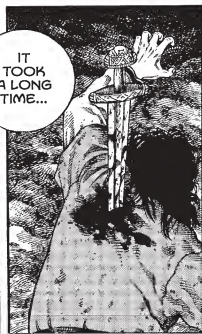
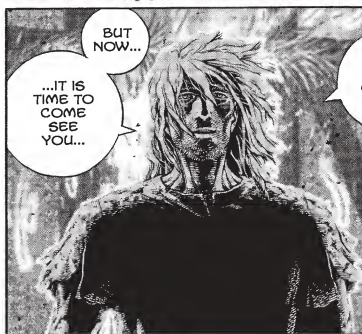
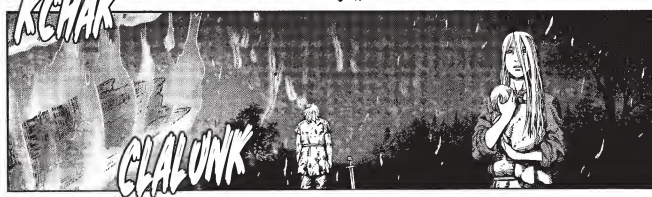
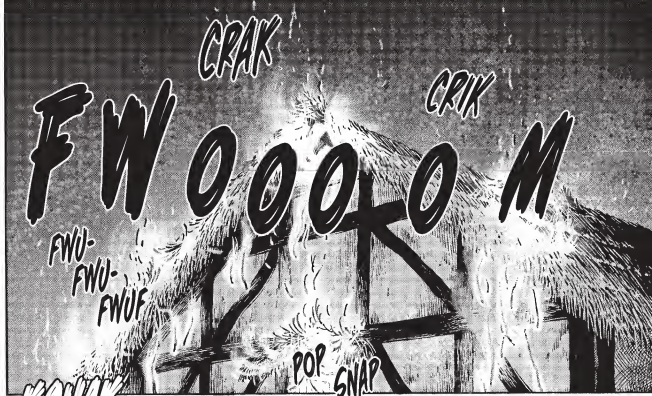
ONLY THEN
WILL YOU
KNOW THE
DEPTH OF
MY RAGE.

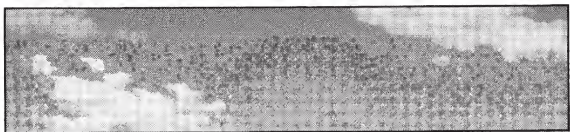
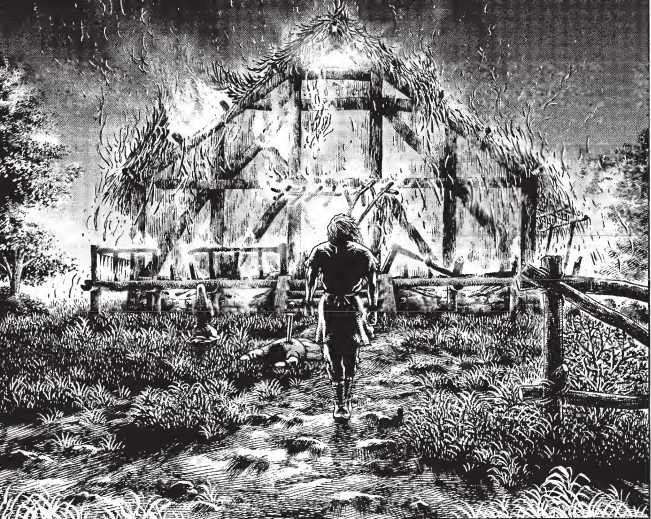
YOU MUST
DESCEND
INTO
SLAVERY
YOURSELF.

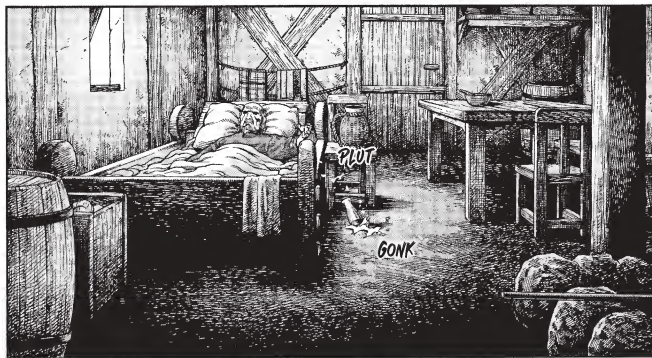
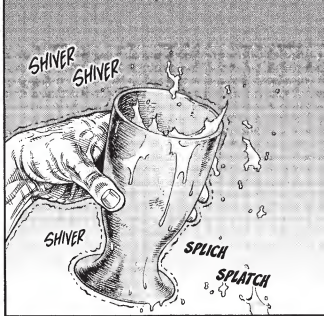
KSHINK...











EVEN
FOR
ME...

...HMPH.

SO DEATH
COMES IN A
BED... RATHER
THAN IN THE
FIELD...



IT'S
OPEN.

COME
IN.

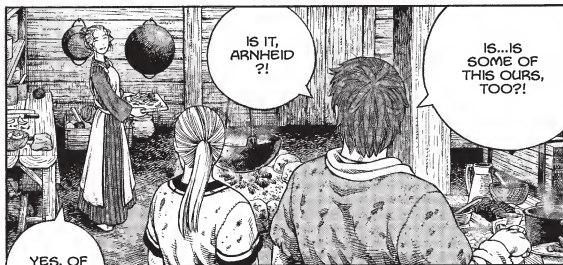
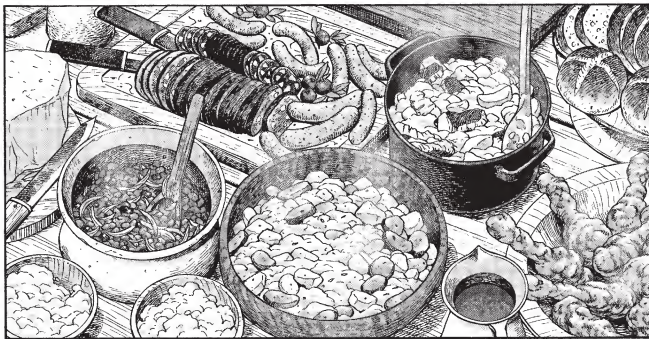
TAP
TAP

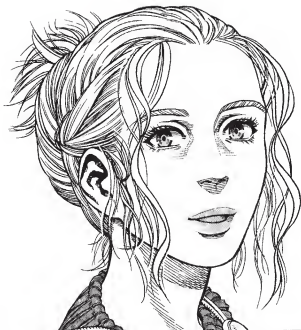


I...
I'M HERE
ON THE
MADAM'S
ORDERS...

P-PARDON
ME...

CREAK...





I ONLY
HOPE
IT WILL
MEET
YOUR...

OLD
MASTER
SAID
I SHOULD
MAKE
ENOUGH
FOR EVERY-
ONE.



OH...
I
SUPPOSE
I NEEDN'T
WORRY,
THEN.

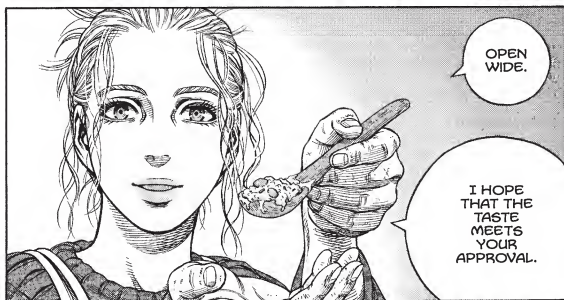
...SATIS-
FAC...

NO
ONE
SAYS
GRACE?



PLEASE
EAT UP,
OLD
MASTER.

I AM HERE
TO CARE FOR
YOUR DAILY
NEEDS NOW.
IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING AT
ALL, JUST SAY
THE WORD.



GET USED
TO IT, GRAMPS.
UNTIL YOUR
BODY
RECOVERS,
"OPEN
WIDE! ♡"
IS ALL YOU
GET.

SMIRK

THE OLD
MAN'S TOO
EMBARRASSED
TO OPEN HIS
MOUTH FOR
HIS FOOD.

AH!

N-
NO...

DID
YOU JUST
LAUGH?

HEH...

...!

SWEET

GUH...

IT'S
TRUE,
I'M NOT
HUNGRY
AT THE
MOMENT.

LATER,
WHEN I
FEEL...

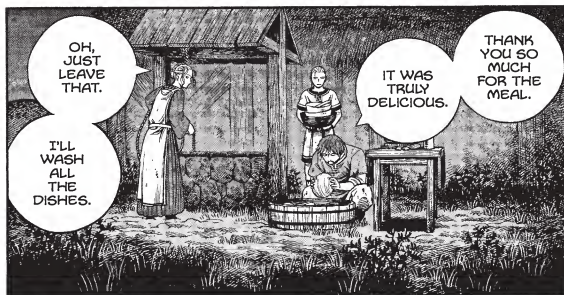
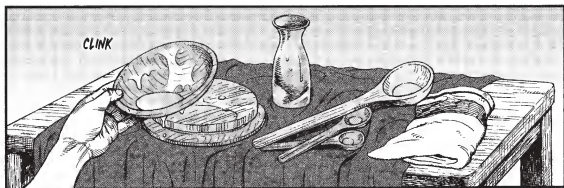
GYUURGLE

GET OUT
OF MY
HOUSE
ALREADY!!!

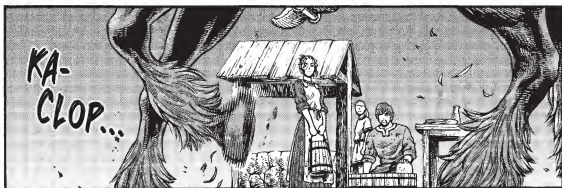
AHA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

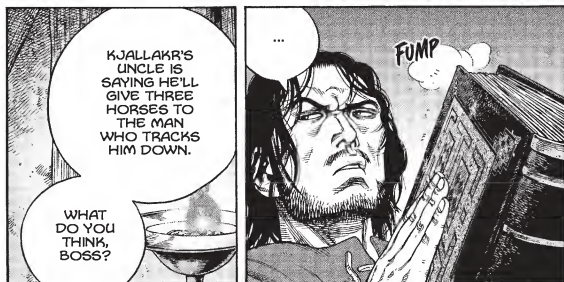
THAT'S
IT! I
CAN'T
HOLD IT
IN ANY
LONGER!

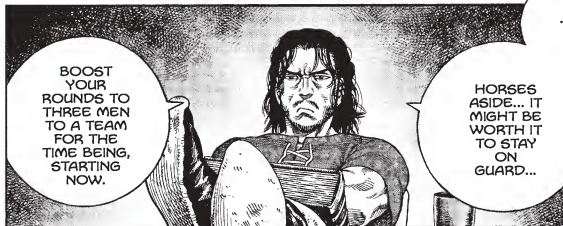
BWA
HA
HA
HA
HA!











BOOST
YOUR
ROUNDS TO
THREE MEN
TO A TEAM
FOR THE
TIME BEING,
STARTING
NOW.

...
HORSES
ASIDE... IT
MIGHT BE
WORTH IT
TO STAY
ON
GUARD...



CALL
FOR
HELP
FIRST.

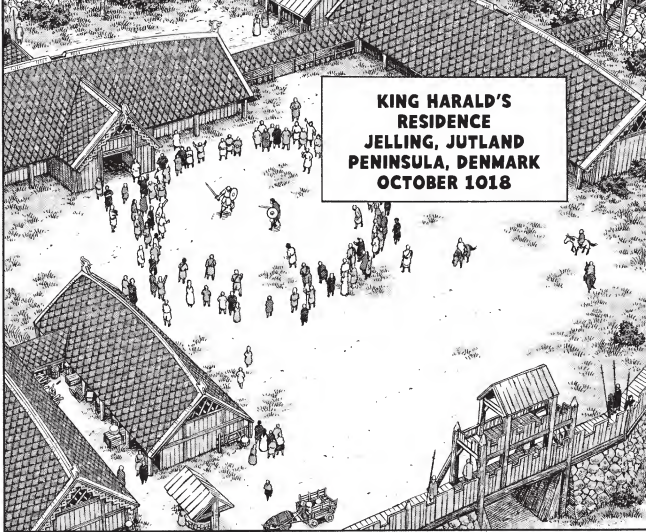
AND
IF YOU
HAPPEN TO
SEE HIM ON
THIS FARM,
DON'T GO OUT
OF YOUR WAY
TO CAPTURE
HIM.



YOU NEVER
KNOW WHAT
SOMEONE
WITH HIS BACK
AGAINST THE
WALL WILL
DO...

CHAPTER 75: KING AND SWORD





**KING HARALD'S
RESIDENCE
JELLING, JUTLAND
PENINSULA, DENMARK
OCTOBER 1018**

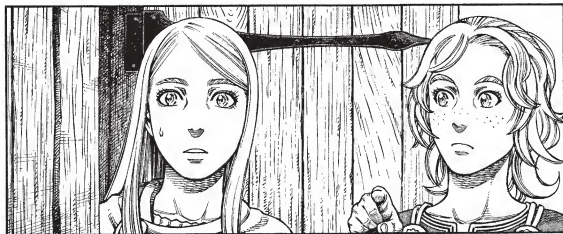
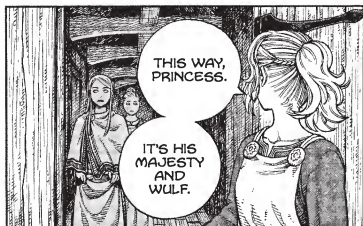
K L A A A N G

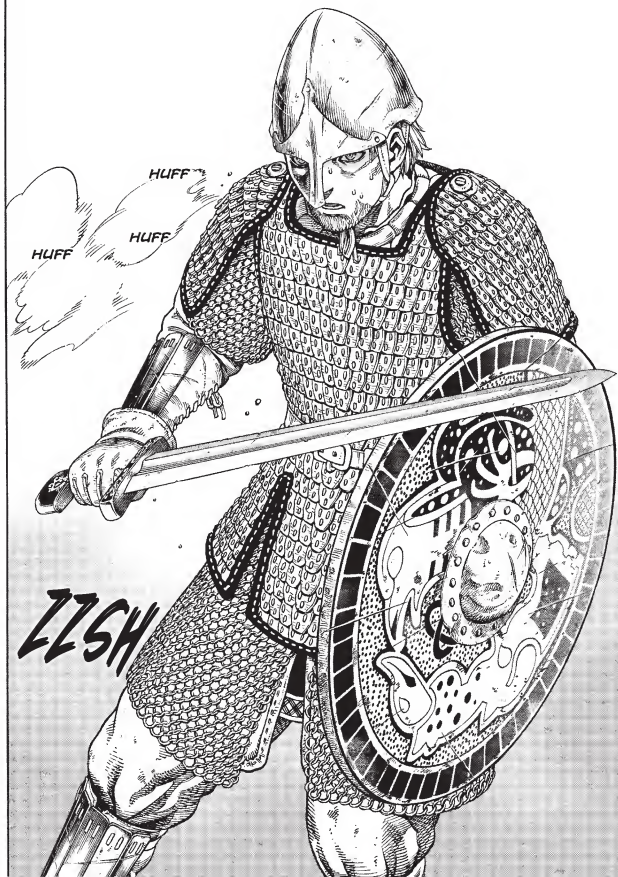
TINNING

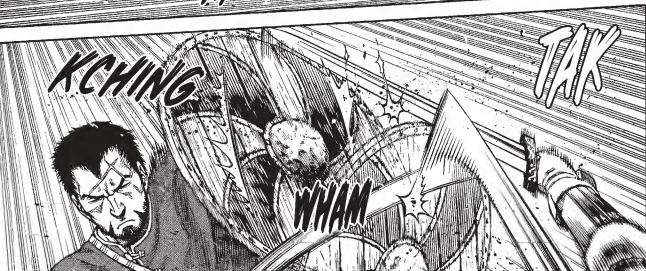
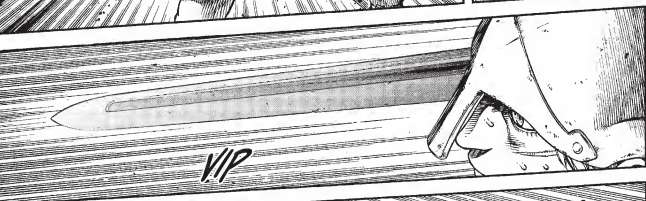
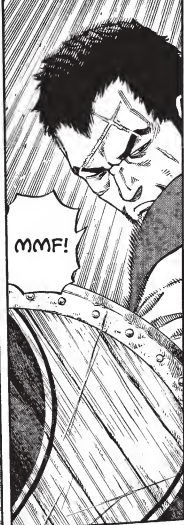
GAKK

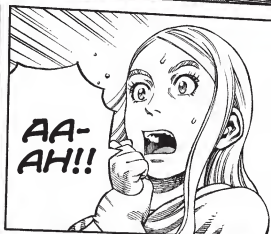
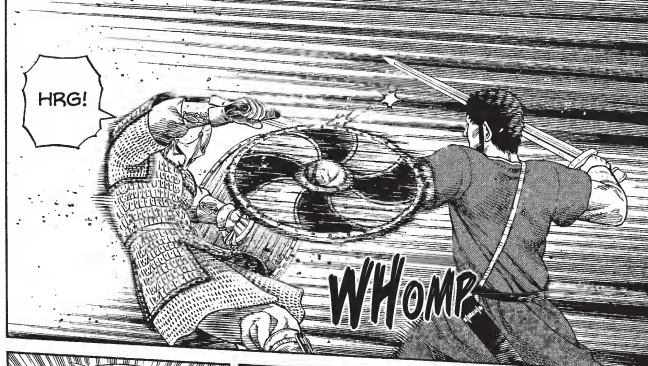
THUD

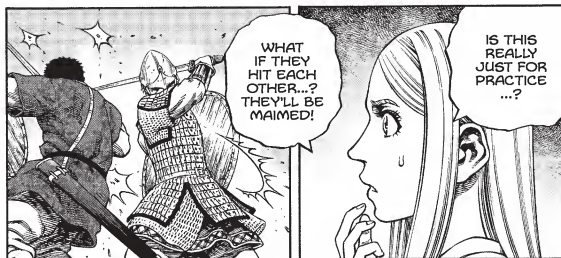
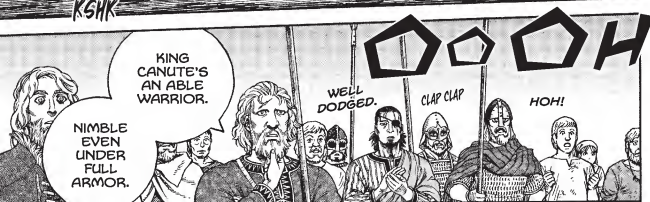
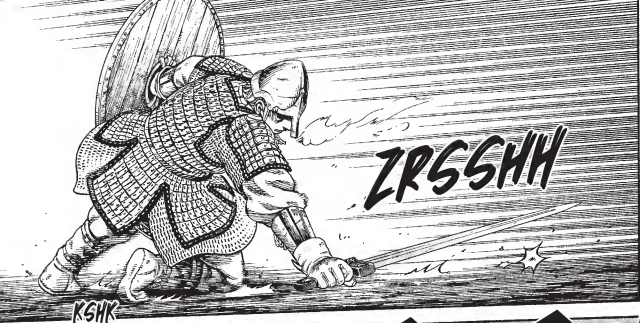


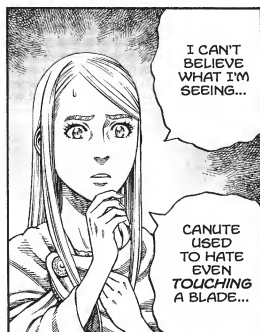
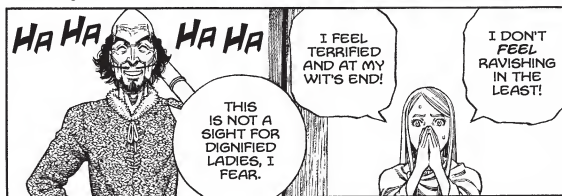
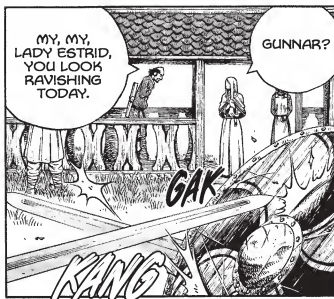


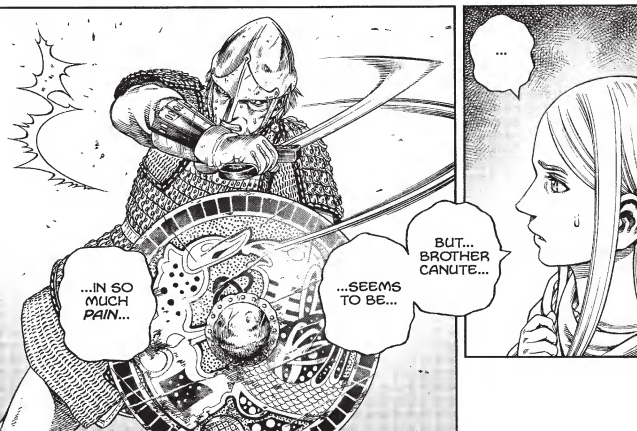


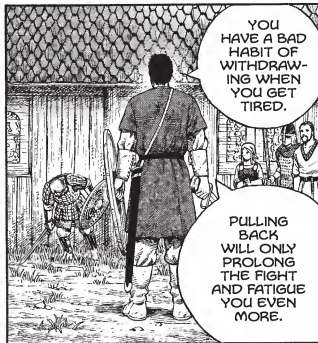
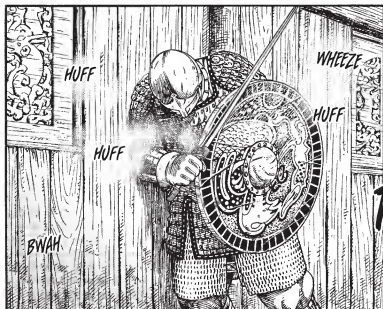


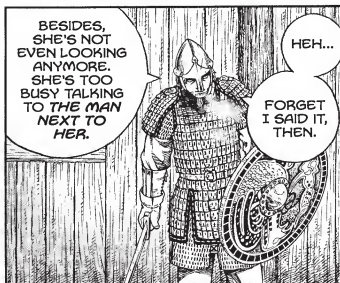
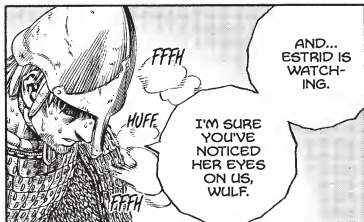
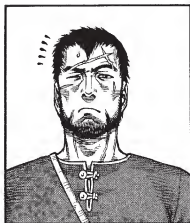






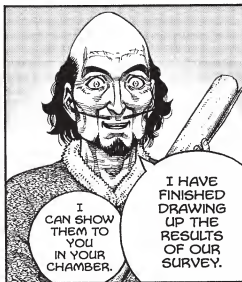
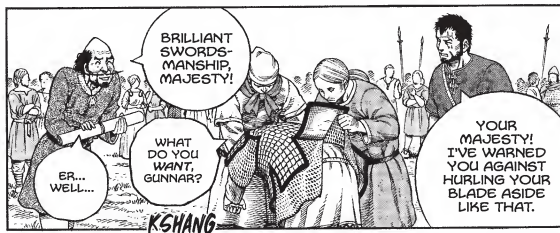


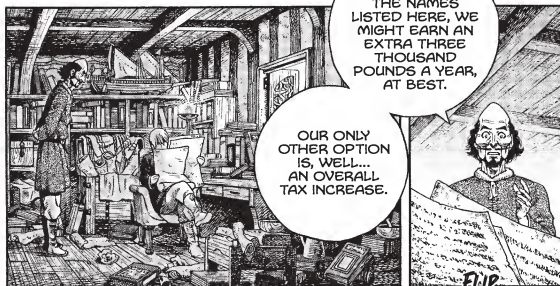
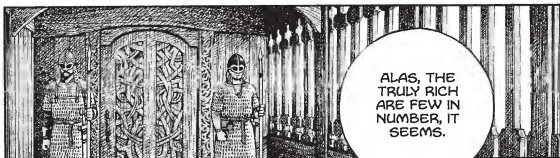
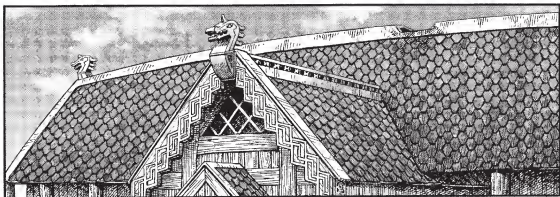


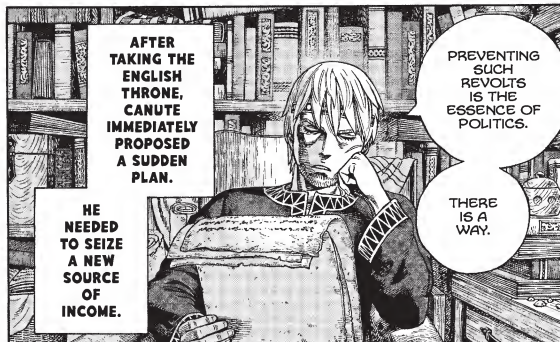
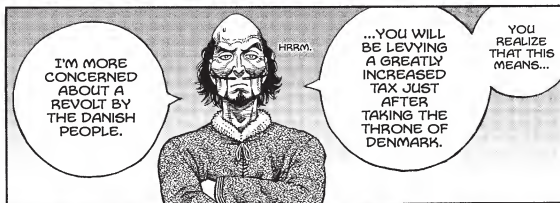
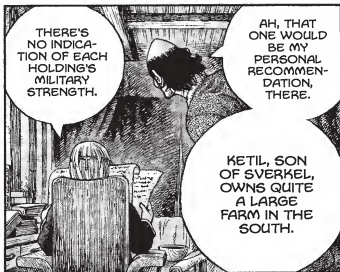
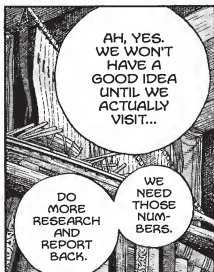


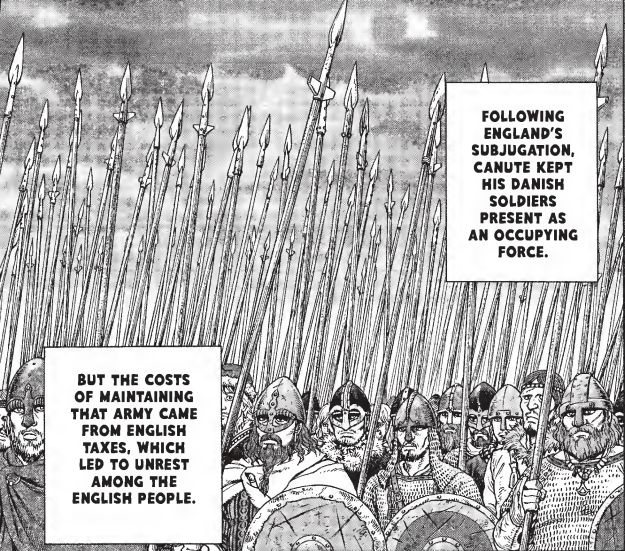






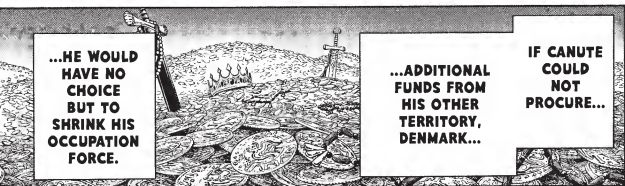






**FOLLOWING
ENGLAND'S
SUBJUGATION,
CANUTE KEPT
HIS DANISH
SOLDIERS
PRESENT AS
AN OCCUPYING
FORCE.**

**BUT THE COSTS
OF MAINTAINING
THAT ARMY CAME
FROM ENGLISH
TAXES, WHICH
LED TO UNREST
AMONG THE
ENGLISH PEOPLE.**



**...HE WOULD
HAVE NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
SHRINK HIS
OCCUPATION
FORCE.**

**...ADDITIONAL
FUNDS FROM
HIS OTHER
TERRITORY,
DENMARK...**

**IF CANUTE
COULD
NOT
PROCURE...**



**EXPAND-
ING OUR
DIRECT
HOLD-
INGS.**

**YOU SAY
THERE IS A
WAY, BUT
I DO NOT
SEE-**



NO. WE
INCREASE
ROYALLY-
OWNED
FARMLAND
THROUGH
OTHER
MEANS.

CULTI-
VATING
NEW
LAND?

BUT
THAT WILL
TAKE TIME IN
ORDER TO
BE PROFIT-
ABLE.



BUT YOUR
MAJESTY,
THIS
CANNOT BE
WISE...

YOU
MEAN...
EXPRO-
PRIA-
TION?!

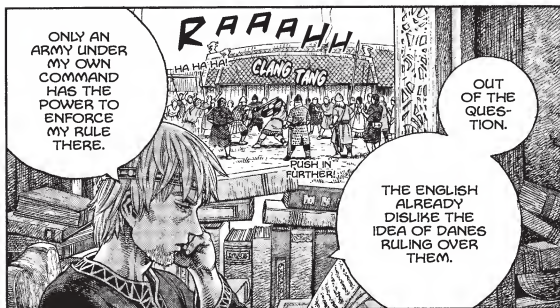
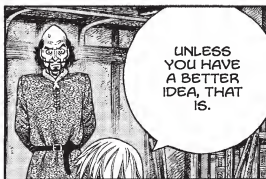
...!!

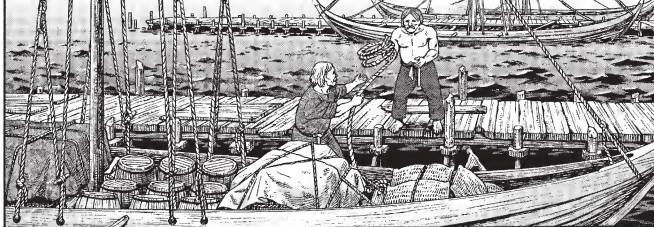


RATHER
THAN SEEDING
DISCONTENT
THROUGHOUT
THE KINGDOM
WITH
TAXES...

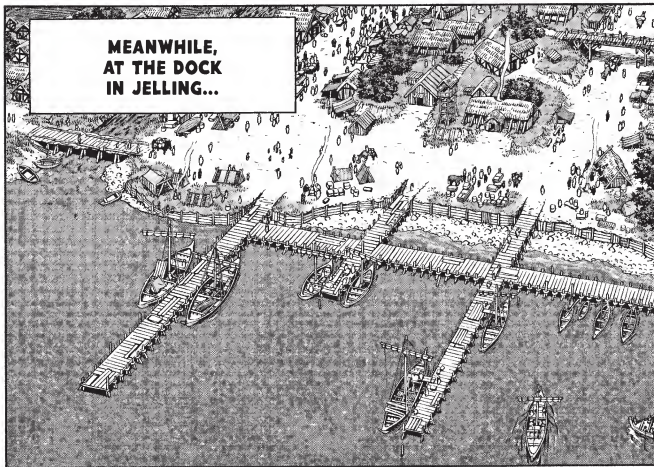
WE NEED
MONEY,
AND THE
SITUATION
DEMANDS
SOME
HARDSHIP.

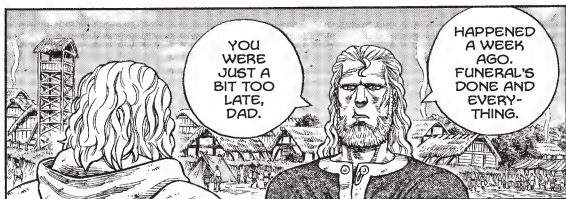
...WE OUGHT
TO AVOID THIS
OUTCOME BY
SACRIFICING
THE HAPPINESS
OF A SMALL
NUMBER OF
PEOPLE.

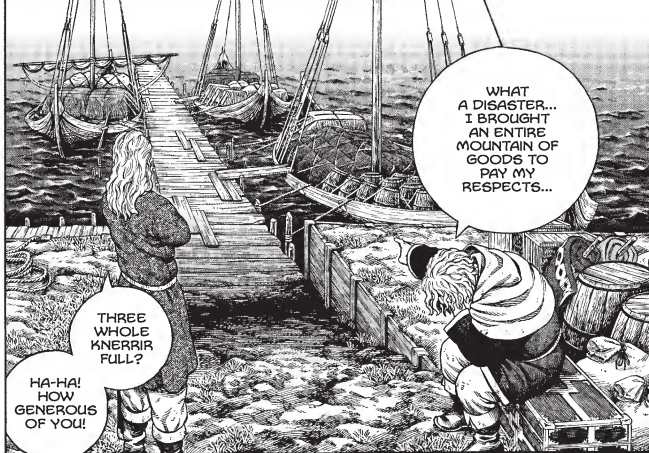




**MEANWHILE,
AT THE DOCK
IN JELLING...**







WHAT
A DISASTER...
I BROUGHT
AN ENTIRE
MOUNTAIN OF
GOODS TO
PAY MY
RESPECTS...

THREE
WHOLE
KNERRIR
FULL?

HA-HA!
HOW
GENEROUS
OF YOU!



AYE?

WAIT.

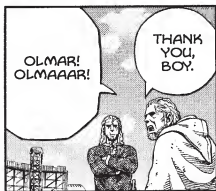
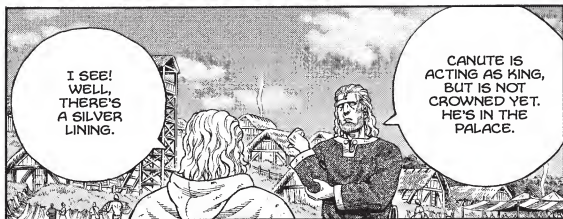


IF
YOU'RE
HERE TO
WELCOME
ME TO
JELLING,
THORGIL...

YEP.

I AM
HIS LOYAL
THEGN,
BELIEVE IT
OR NOT.

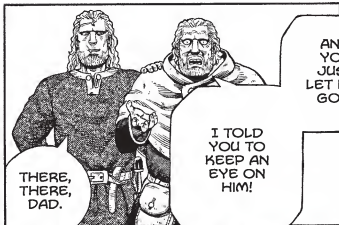
...DOES THAT
MEAN KING
CANUTE IS
HERE AS
WELL?





HE'S
ALREADY
TWENTY,
NOT A
CHILD
ANYMORE.

HE *IS* A
CHILD!



AND
YOU
JUST
LET HIM
GO?!

I TOLD
YOU TO
KEEP AN
EYE ON
HIM!

THERE,
THERE,
DAD.



JUST
IMAGINING
WHAT HE'LL
GET INTO
ALONE IN
TOWN...

H
A
H
H
H
...

THE IDIOT
BOY WILL
ALWAYS BE
A CHILD!

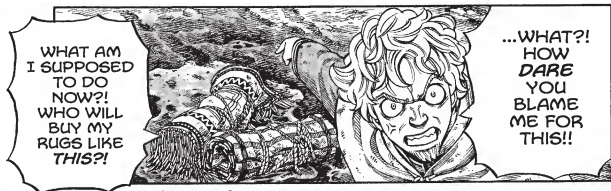


I'VE NO
DOUBT HE'S
ALREADY
GOTTEN
HIMSELF INTO
AN ARGUMENT
OVER A MERE
BUMPED
SHOULDER OR
TWO...



I'D
SAY
YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
OWES
ME AN
APOLOGY
!!

YOU KNOW
FULL WELL
IT WAS
YOU THAT
BUMPED
INTO ME!!
ADMIT IT,
YOU LITTLE
BITCH!!



WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED
TO DO
NOW?!
WHO WILL
BUY MY
RUGS LIKE
THIS?!

...WHAT?!
HOW
DARE
YOU
BLAME
ME FOR
THIS!!



YOU
WILL BE
REIMBURS-
ING ME
FOR THE
MERCHAN-
DISE,
THOUGH!

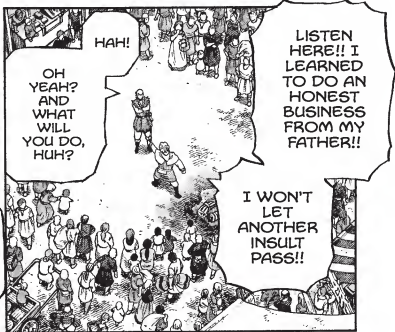
WHAT?!
YOU
ACCUSE ME
OF STAGING
THIS LIKE
SOME
CHEAP
SCAM?!

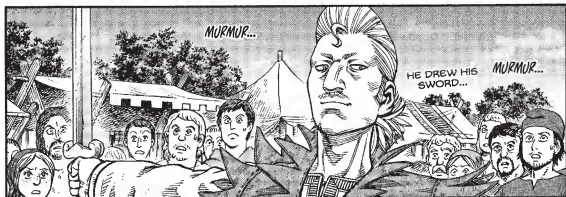
OOH, IT'S
A FIGHT.

WHAT'S
THIS,
THEN?

MURMUR

THAT AIN'T
MY FAULT!
AND DON'T
YOU EVEN
THINK ABOUT
FORCIN' ME TO
BUY 'EM! YOU
WON'T CATCH
ME WITH THAT
ONE!!





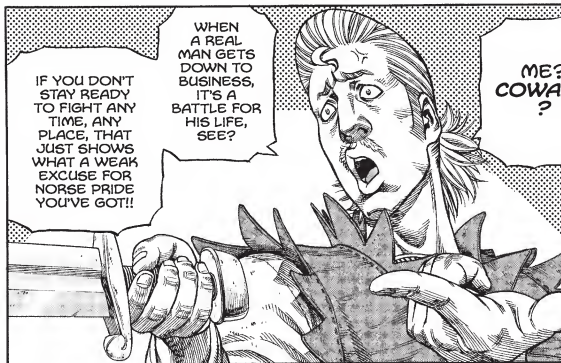


Y-YOU
COWARD!!



DO I
SEE YOU
TREMBLIN'?
HMM?

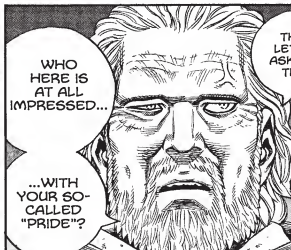
WHAT'S
WRONG,
CON
ARTIST?
COME AND
TAKE A
SWING AT
ME.



IF YOU DON'T
STAY READY
TO FIGHT ANY
TIME, ANY
PLACE, THAT
JUST SHOWS
WHAT A WEAK
EXCUSE FOR
NORSE PRIDE
YOU'VE GOT!!

WHEN
A REAL
MAN GETS
DOWN TO
BUSINESS,
IT'S A
BATTLE FOR
HIS LIFE,
SEE?

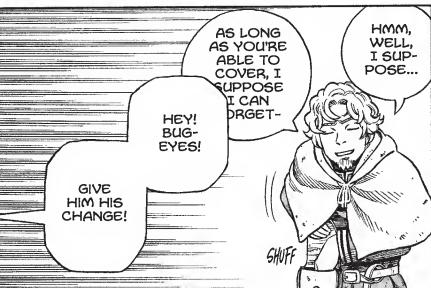
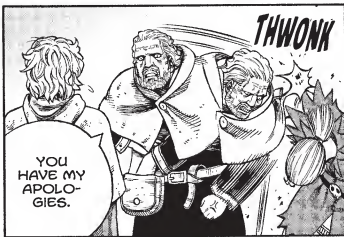
ME?
COWARD
?

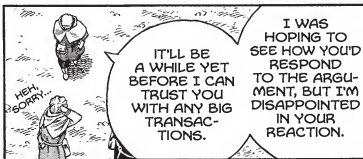
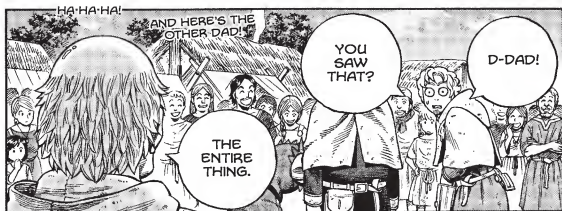


WHO
HERE IS
AT ALL
IMPRESSED...

...WITH
YOUR SO-
CALLED
"PRIDE"?

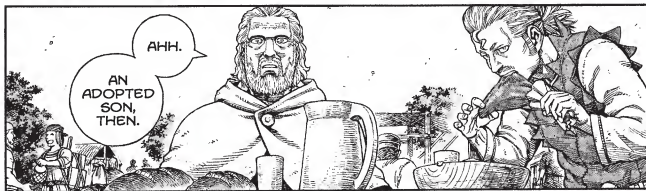
THEN
LET ME
ASK YOU
THIS.

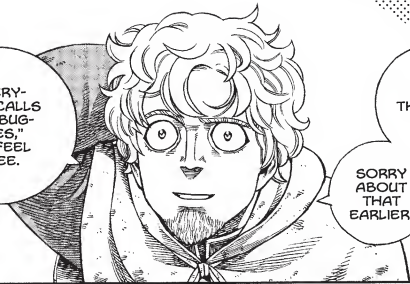




CHAPTER 76: OLMAR'S FINEST HOUR



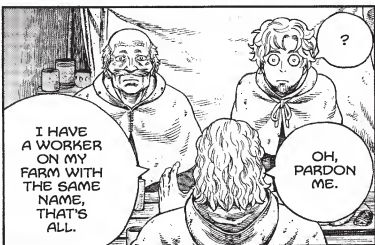




EVERY-
ONE CALLS
ME "BUG-
EYES,"
SO FEEL
FREE.

I'M
THORFINN.

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT
EARLIER.



I HAVE
A WORKER
ON MY
FARM WITH
THE SAME
NAME,
THAT'S
ALL.

OH,
PARDON
ME.



THORFINN
...?



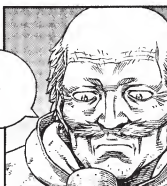
HA
HA HA,
WELL,
WELL.

YOUR
SON IS
BOLD, AT
LEAST.

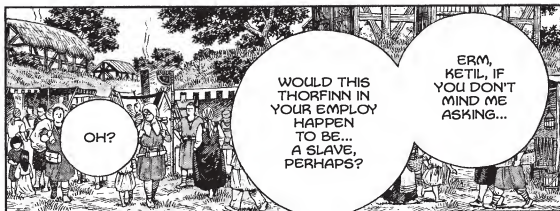


PERHAPS I
SHOULD HAVE
NAMED THIS
BOY THORFINN,
AND HE'D HAVE
TURNED OUT
BETTER.

A
QUIET
BUT
STEAD-
FAST
LABORER.



...



OH?

WOULD THIS
THORFINN IN
YOUR EMPLOY
HAPPEN
TO BE...
A SLAVE,
PERHAPS?

ERM,
KETIL, IF
YOU DON'T
MIND ME
ASKING...



I DID NOT
REVEAL HIS
BACKGROUND
BECAUSE I
DID NOT WANT
TO UPSET
YOU BY THE
COMPARISON.

YES... I'M
SURPRISED
THAT YOU
COULD
TELL.



MY
GOODNESS,
YOU ARE
CORRECT
ON ALL
COUNTS.

HE
IS A BIT
SHORTER,
HOW-
EVER...

IS HE
NORDIC
...

...JUST
ABOUT
THE AGE
OF THIS
ONE...?

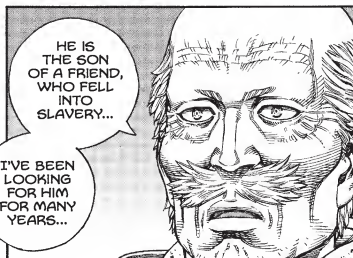
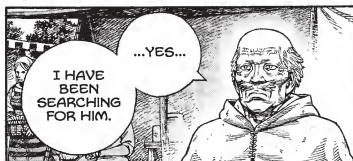
...BLONDE
WITH
BROWN
EYES...

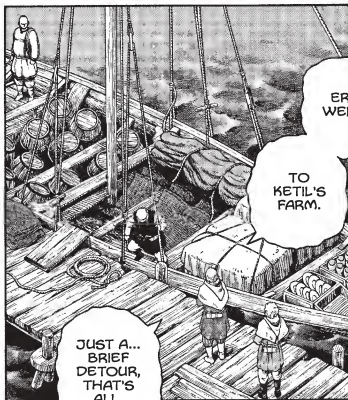


AND IS HE
A FORMER
WARRIOR...

...
ORIGINALLY
FROM
ICELAND?

THIS
AGAIN,
DAD?





JUST A...
BRIEF
DETOUR,
THAT'S
ALL.

COME ON!!

THEN WE'RE LOSING AT LEAST TEN DAYS OF OUR TRIP!!

THAT'S WELL MORE THAN A DETOUR!!

AND HOW LONG A TRIP IS IT FROM HERE?

...FIVE DAYS, IF THE WIND IS RIGHT.

I THINK IT'S REALLY HIM!

THIS THORFINN IS NOT LIKE THE PREVIOUS ONES!

BUT LISTEN, MORD!!

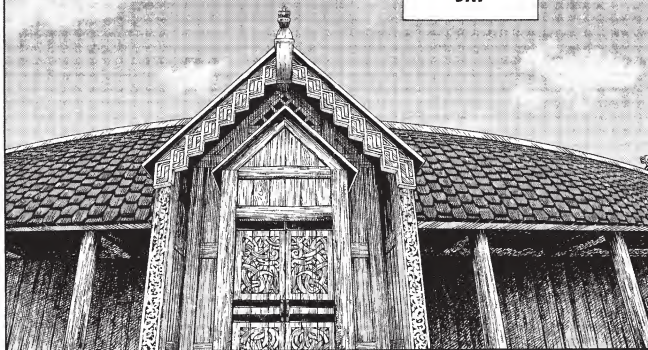
WE'RE ALREADY PUSHING IT AS IT IS! WHAT IF WE ADD ANOTHER TEN DAYS, AND WE DON'T HAVE THE LUCK OF THE WIND OR TIDES ON TOP OF THAT?!

IT'S ALREADY AUTUMN, POPS! IF WE DON'T START BACK HOME SOON, THE SEAS AROUND GREENLAND WILL FREEZE!

UNDER-
STAND?

I'M SORRY, POPS, BUT THERE'LL BE NONE OF YOUR "IT'S THORFINN" THIS TIME.

**THE NEXT
DAY**



I ONLY
ARRIVED
YESTERDAY,
AND
ALREADY
TODAY I'VE
GOT MY
AUDIENCE
WITH KING
CANUTE.

WHAT A
PLEASANT
SURPRISE.

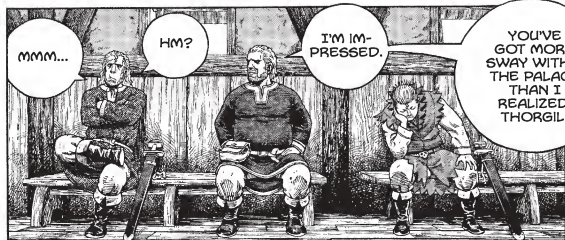


mmm...

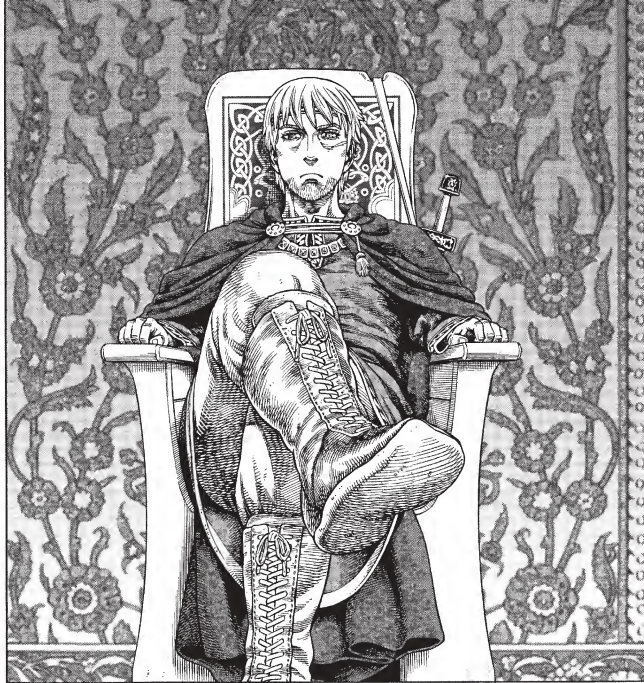
hm?

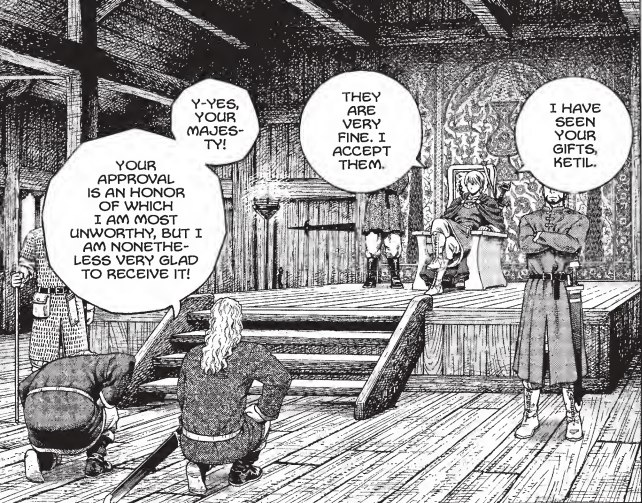
I'M IM-
PRESSED.

YOU'VE
GOT MORE
SWAY WITHIN
THE PALACE
THAN I
REALIZED,
THORGIL.









Y-YES,
YOUR
MAJES-
TY!

YOUR
APPROVAL
IS AN HONOR
OF WHICH
I AM MOST
UNWORTHY, BUT I
AM NONETHE-
LESS VERY GLAD
TO RECEIVE IT!

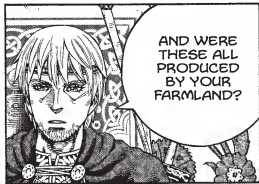
THEY
ARE
VERY
FINE. I
ACCEPT
THEM.

I HAVE
SEEN
YOUR
GIFTS,
KETIL.



YES,
INDEED!

THIS
YEAR WAS
A BOUNTIFUL
ONE, THANK-
FULLY...

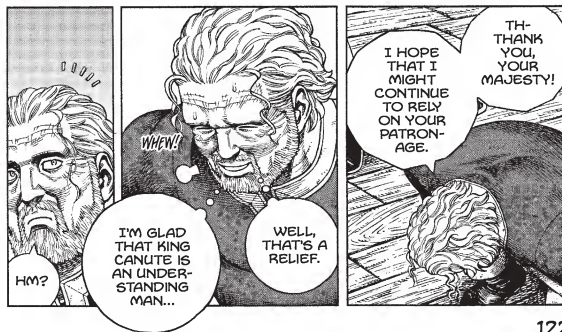
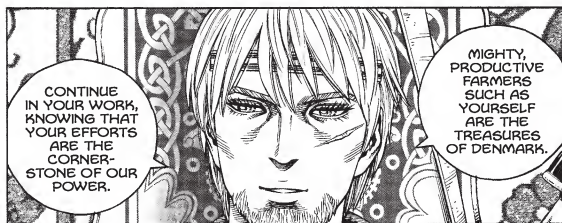


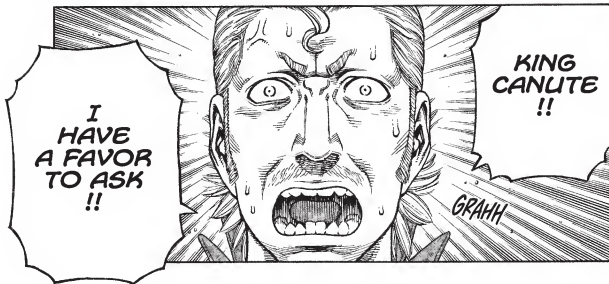
AND WERE
THESE ALL
PRODUCED
BY YOUR
FARMLAND?



FROM
WHAT I
UNDERSTAND,
HE ENJOYED
THE PIGS WE
OFFERED
FOR YULE
EVERY YEAR.

THE LATE
KING HARALD
WAS VERY
PLEASSED
WITH OUR
OFFERINGS
AS WELL, I'M
HAPPY TO
SAY.







ONE OF
YOUR
THEGNS
JUST
LIKE MY
BIG BRO,
IF YOU
CAN!!

PLEASE
PUT ME
IN YOUR
ROYAL
ARMY!!



I HAVE
TRAINED
SO MUCH
JUST FOR
THIS DAY!

I CAN
BE OF
SERVICE!

JUST
WATCH A
DEMON-
STRATION
OF MY-

SHING



WHA
P

?!
??!

OL...
?!!

GAHH

SHUT
UP AND
LEGGO
O' ME,
OLD
MAN!!

**YOU
BLOODY
FOOL!!**

I JUST
WANNA
FIGHT!! I'M
TIRED OF
WASTIN' MY
ENTIRE LIFE
IN THAT
CRAPPY
BACK-
WATER!!

LURCH

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA THE
DISRESPECT
YOU SHOW
BY DRAWING
YOUR SWORD
IN THE KING'S
PRESENCE?!

MY
GOOD-
NESS...

**GRAHH
GRAHH**

SHUT
THE
FUCK
UP,
DAD!

THAT'S
IT, BOY!
TODAY
IS THE
LAST,
STRAW!

STOMP

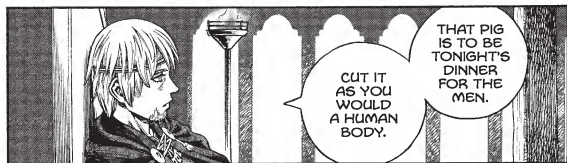
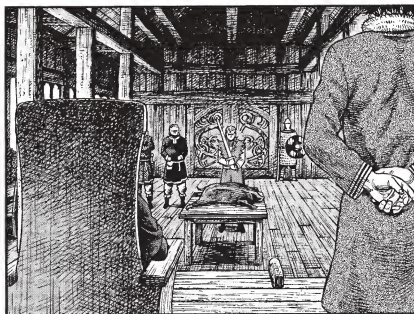
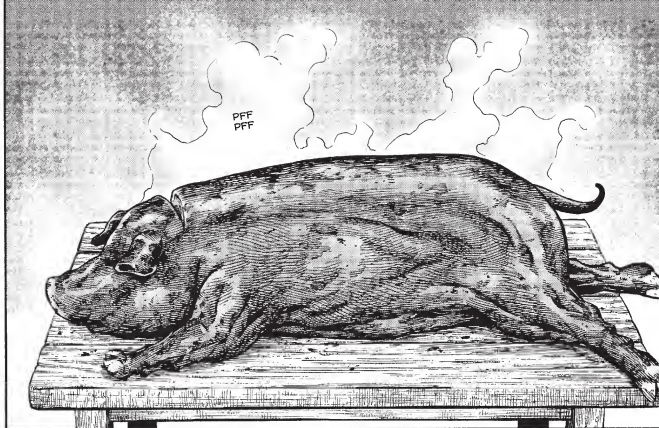
STOMP

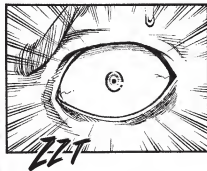
HUH
?

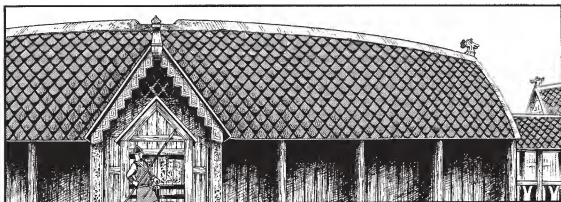
I DO
NOT
MIND,
KETIL.

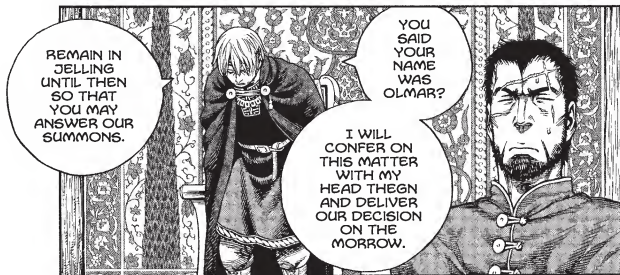
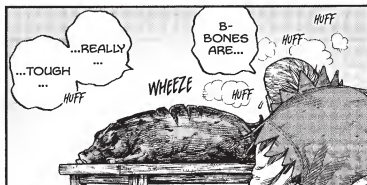
LET US
SEE HIS
SKILL
WITH THE
BLADE.

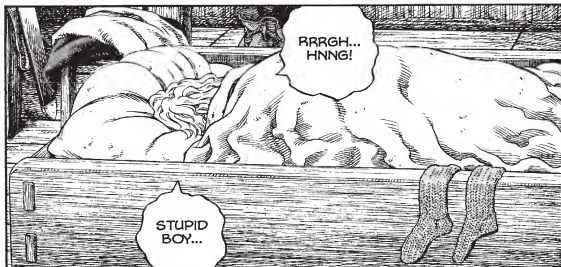
WHAT
SHALL
WE DO,
MAJES-
TY?

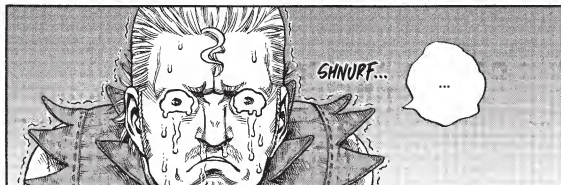
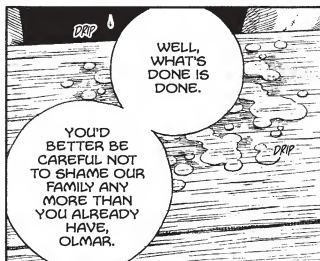
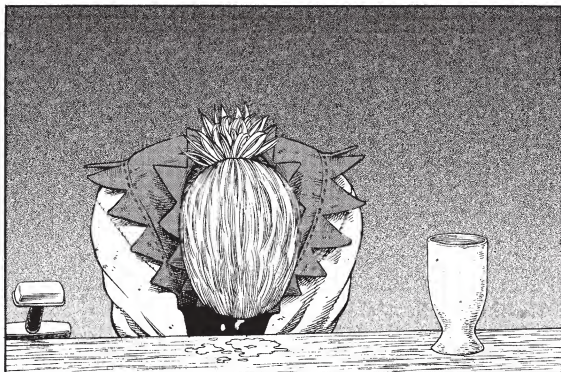


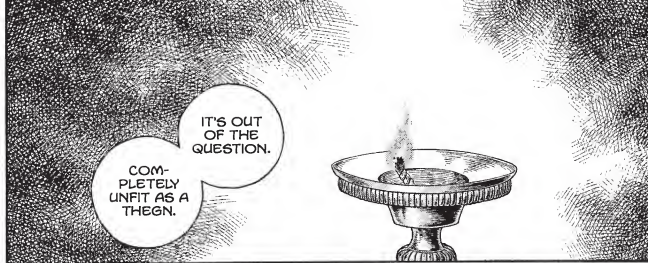












IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION.

COMPLETELY UNFIT AS A THEGN.

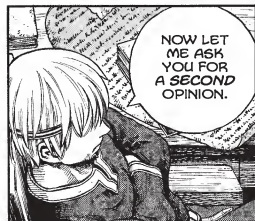


NO CONCEPT WHATSOEVER OF WHERE HIS OWN LIMITS ARE.

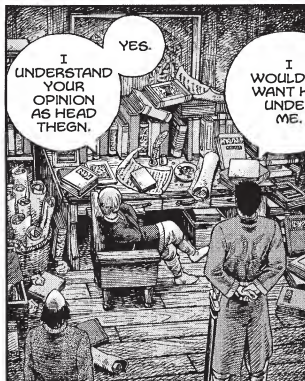
YOU FIND THAT COMBINATION OFTEN.

ALL PRIDE AND NO SKILL.

SUCH MEN ARE THE FIRST TO DIE IN BATTLE.



NOW LET ME ASK YOU FOR A SECOND OPINION.

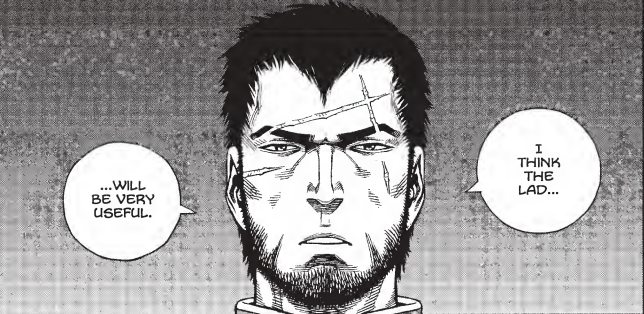


YES.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR OPINION AS HEAD THEGN.

I WOULDN'T WANT HIM UNDER ME.





...WILL
BE VERY
USEFUL.

I
THINK
THE
LAD...



THE
TYPICAL
NORSE
YOUTH, AND
DULL-WITTED
TO BOOT.

...INDEED.

USEFUL.

HE
WILL DANCE
PERFECTLY
TO OUR
TUNE.



IT'S BEFORE
THE CORONA-
TION, BUT WE
CANNOT LET
THIS OPPOR-
TUNITY PASS
US BY.

YES,
WE'LL
BEGIN AT
ONCE.

THEN
WE WILL
PROCEED
WITH THE
PLAN...?



I'M AFRAID
THIS IS AN
ORDEAL
THEY MUST
SUFFER.

KETIL
IS OUR FIRST
TEST CASE
FOR APPROPRIATION.

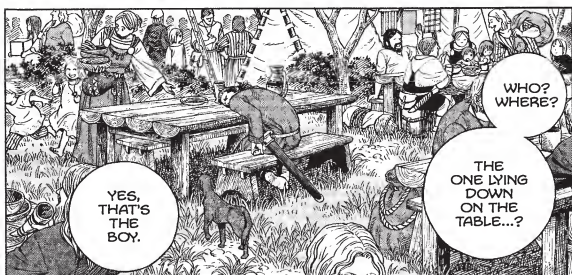
TO
ENSURE...



...PEACE
FOR ALL.

CHAPTER 77: DISGRACE





BWA HA HA HA HA



NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D SEE
ONE FOR
MYSELF!

"THE
MAN WHO
COULDN'T
BEAT A
DEAD
PIG."



YES.
SIMPLY
TELL
HIM.

THAT
IS
YOUR
JOB.

CLINK



GEH HA HA

ON THE
CONTRARY,
HIS COUR-
AGE IS AD-
MIRABLE.

HA

HA

I'M JUST
AMAZED HE
ACTUALLY
THOUGHT
HE COULD
JOIN HIS
MAJESTY'S
THEGNS.

HA

HA



SO
I JUST
HAVE TO
PASS ON
THE NEWS,
THEN?

THAT HE
FAILED.

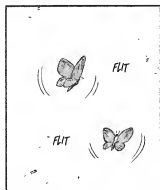
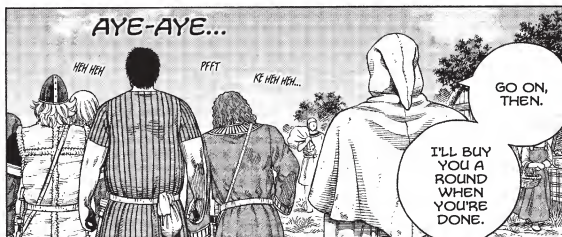
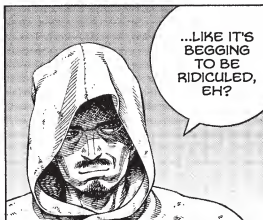


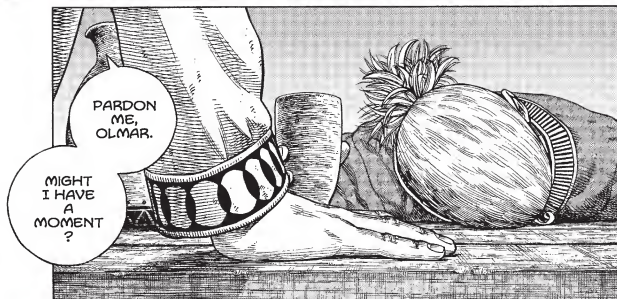
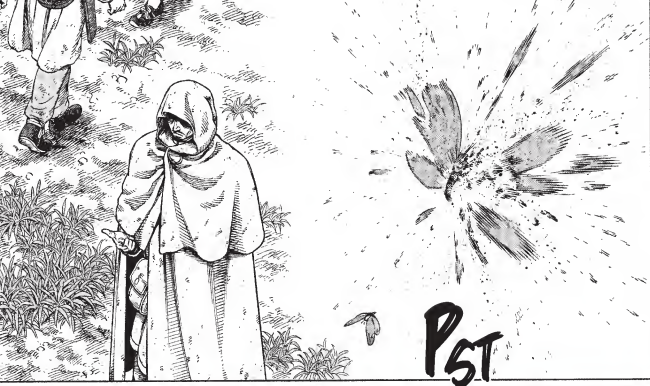
JUST
LOOK
AT HIS
GORMLESS
FACE...

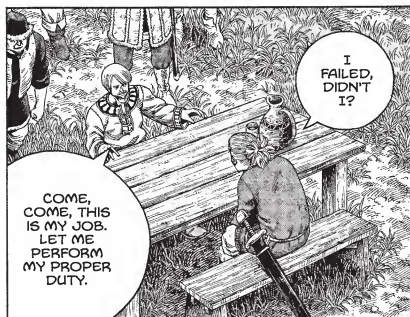
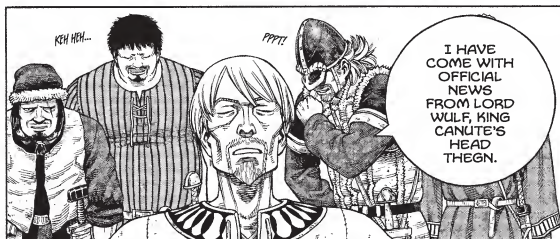
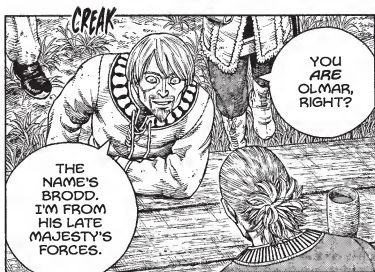
PFFT!

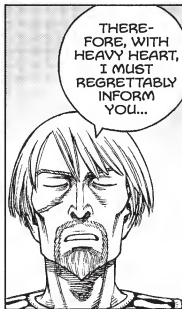
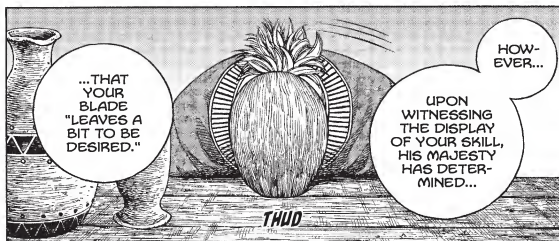
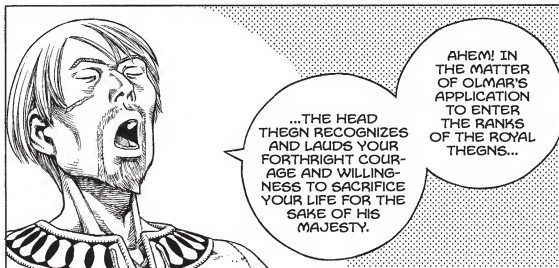
BUT
I CAN'T
GUARANTEE
THAT I'LL
BE ABLE TO
HOLD BACK
FROM MORE.

HMMM...
WELL,
THAT
CAN BE
DONE...









**AAAA HA HA
HA HA**

STOP,
YOU'RE
KILLING
ME! I'M
GONNA
GET A
CRAMP!!

OH HELL,
IT AIN'T
REGRETTA-
BLE IN THE
LEAST! YOU
LOST TO A
DEAD PIG!!

**HA
HA**



**GYA HA HA HA HA HA
HEEE HA HA HA HA HA
C-C-CAN'T BREATHE! HA HA HA!
AHA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA**

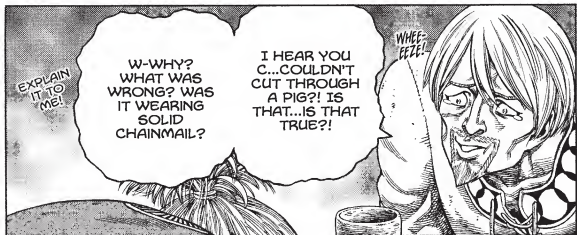


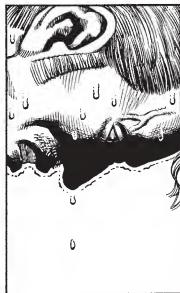
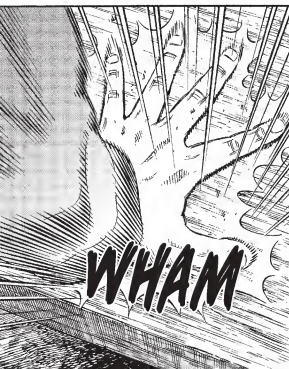
EXPLAIN
IT TO
ME!

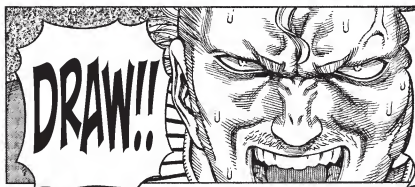
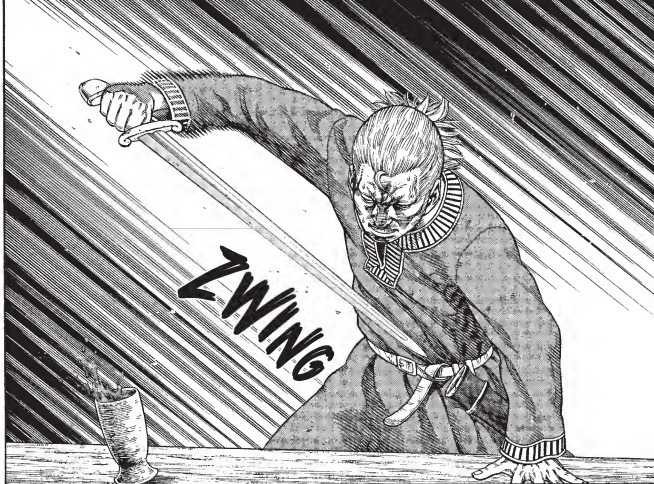
W-WHY?
WHAT WAS
WRONG? WAS
IT WEARING
SOLID
CHAINMAIL?

I HEAR YOU
C...COULDN'T
CUT THROUGH
A PIG?! IS
THAT...IS THAT
TRUE?!

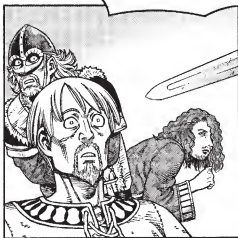
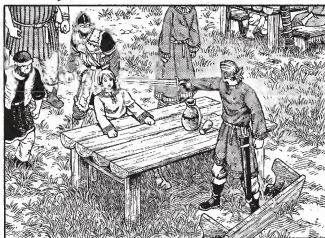
WHEE-
EEZE!



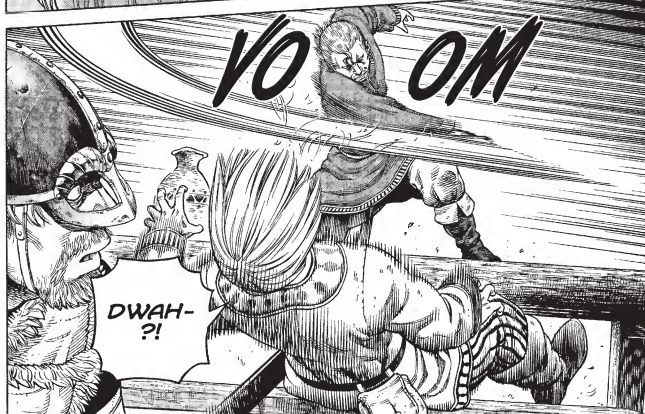




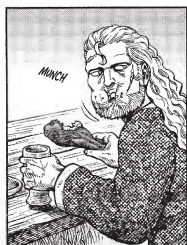
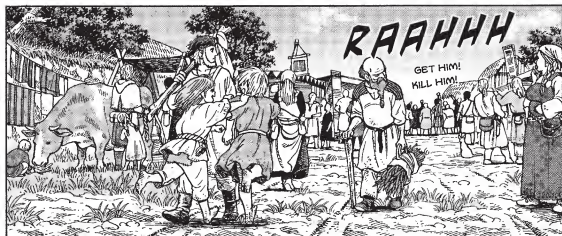
A REAL
WARRIOR
RESPONDS
TO
DISGRACE
WITH HIS
SWORD!!







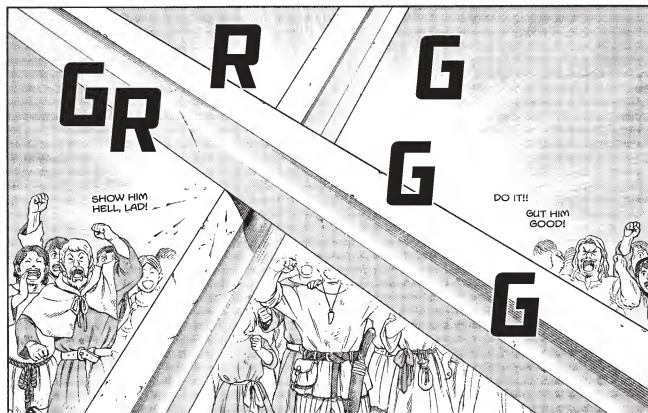




THERE'S
A FIGHT
OVER
THERE!!

OOH,
IT'LL
BE A
BLOODY
ONE!

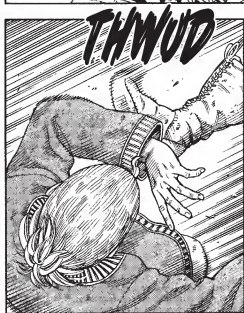
FIVE-
AGAINST-
ONE, NEAR
THE CARTS!
WITH
SWORDS
AND ALL!!

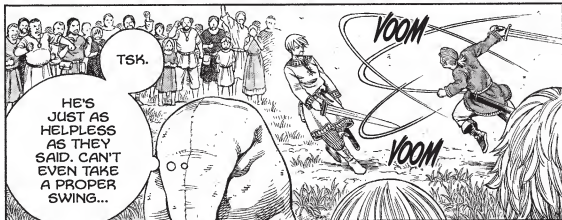


SHOW HIM
HELL, LAD!

DO IT!!

GUT HIM
GOOD!





SHUD

HO!

BWUGH!

A MAN
DOESN'T
ROLL
AROUND ON
THE GROUND
DURING
BATTLE.

STAND
UP,
OLMAR.

DAM-
MIT...

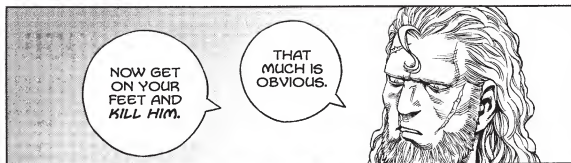
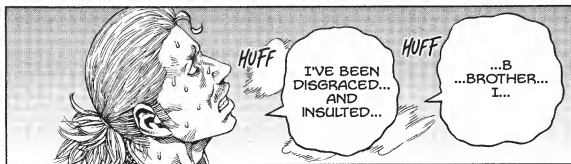
D...

HUFF
HUFF

FFH
HUFF

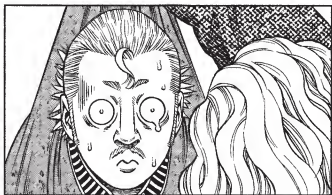
KTHUD

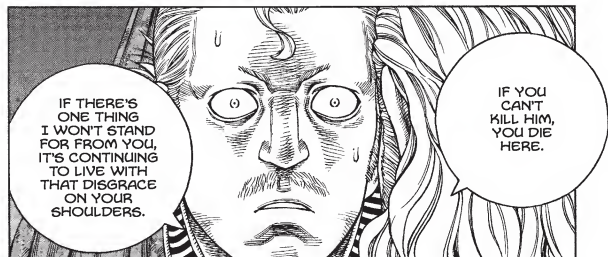
BROTHER...

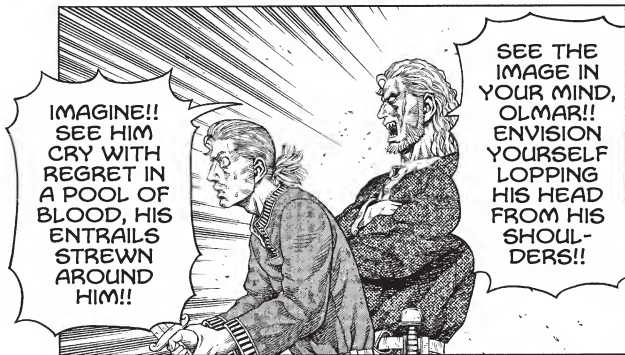
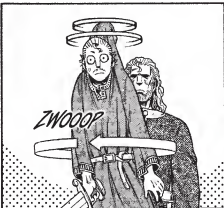


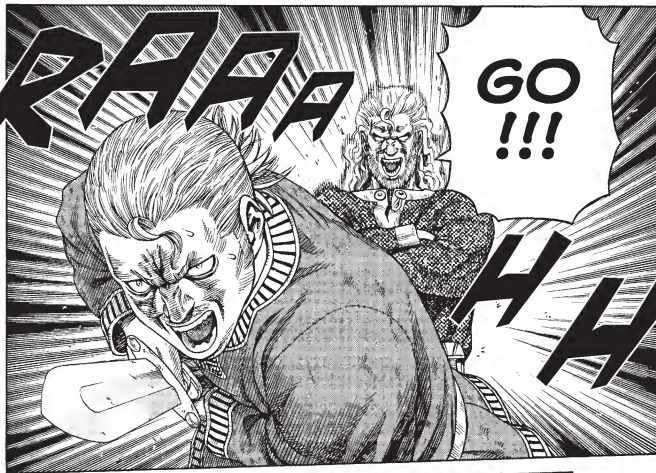
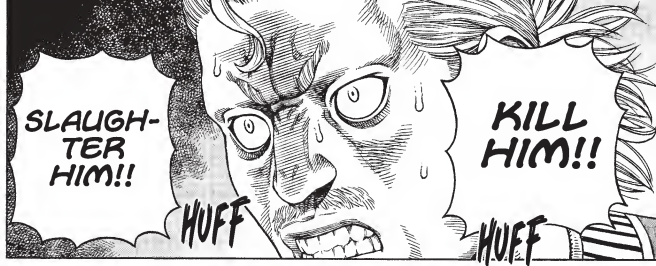


**I SAID,
ON
YOUR
FUCK-
ING
FEET,
OLMAR
!!**



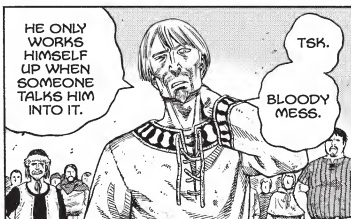
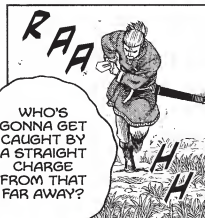


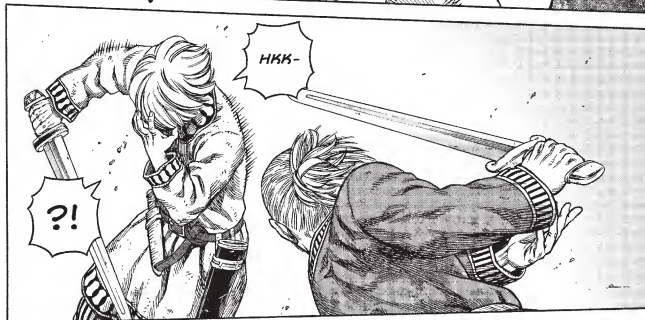
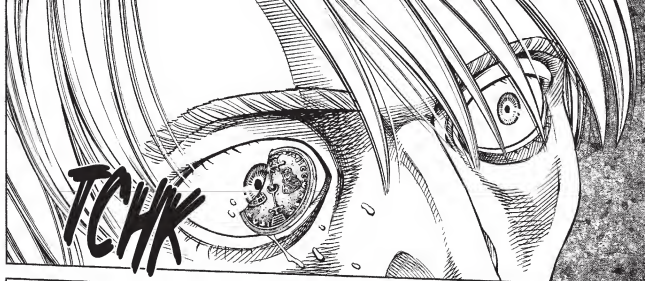


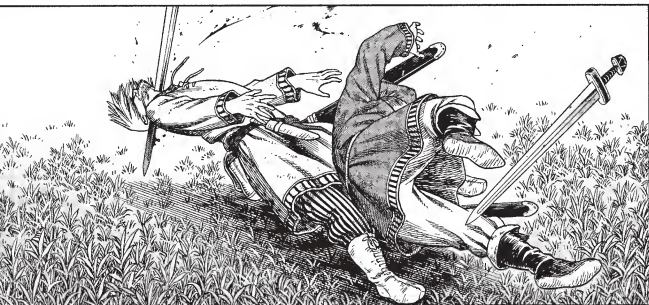
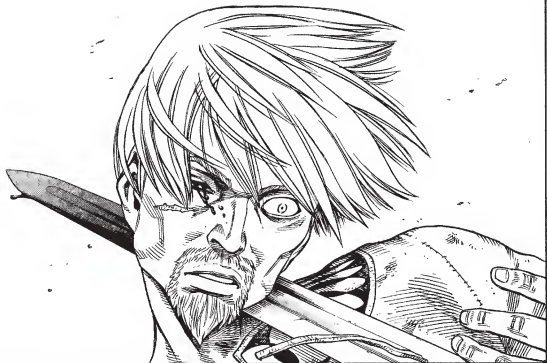


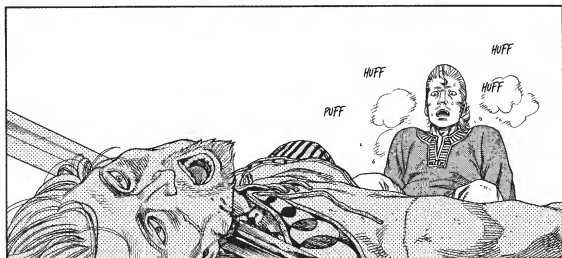


MIGHT BE
ENOUGH...



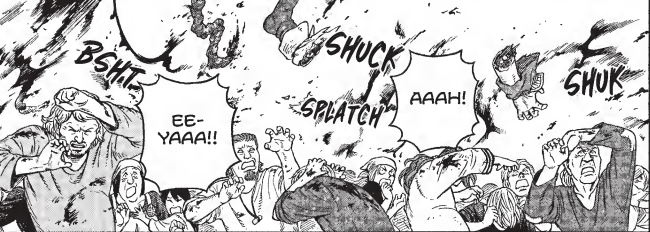








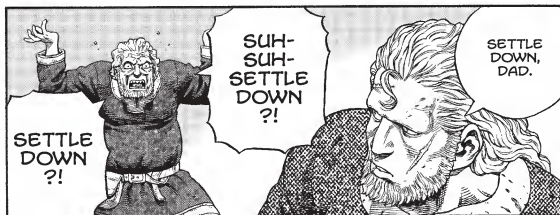








**CHAPTER 78:
TREASON**





WHAT
HAVE
YOU TWO
DONE?!
HOW...
HOW CAN
THIS-?!

YOU
KILLED...
YOU
KILLED
THE KING'S
MESSENG-
GERS!!



...WAS
CRUSHED
BY A STONE
OR SOME-
THING...

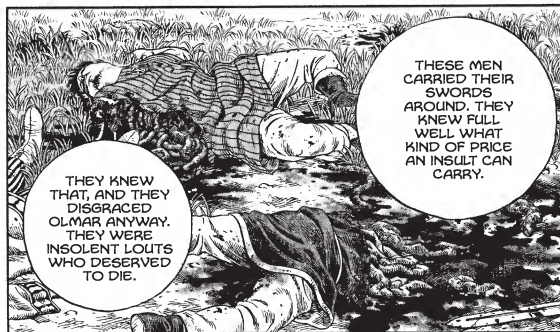


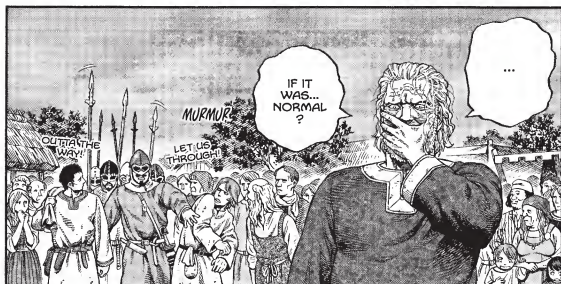
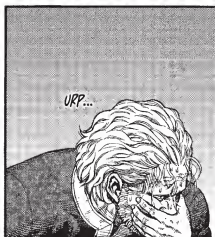
...HIS
EYE...



WE DID
NOTHIN'
WRONG.

OLMAR,
THORGIL,
WHAT DO YOU
HAVE TO SAY
FOR YOUR-
SELVES?!

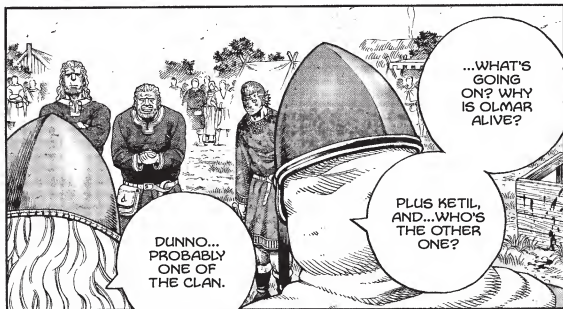
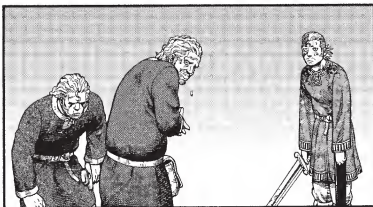






COME
QUIETLY,
AND WE
MIGHT
NOT...

WHO
DARES
DISTURB
THE KING'S
PEACE
IN HIS
STRONG-
HOLD?!



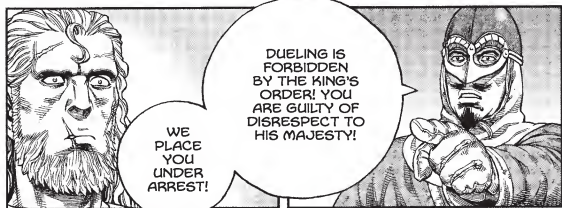
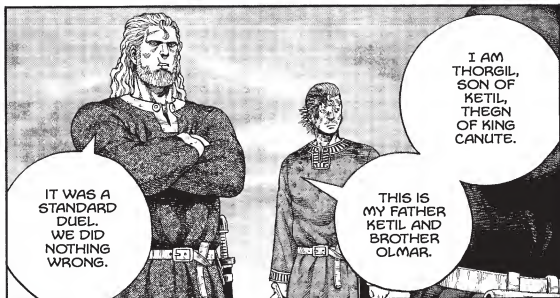
...WHAT'S
GOING
ON? WHY
IS OLMAR
ALIVE?

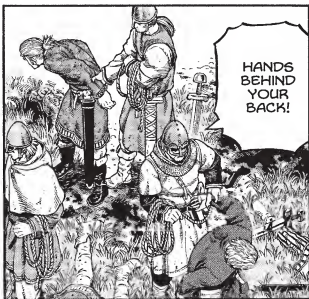
DUNNO...
PROBABLY
ONE OF
THE CLAN.

PLUS KETIL,
AND...WHO'S
THE OTHER
ONE?

MUTTER...

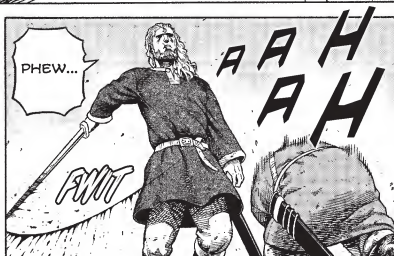
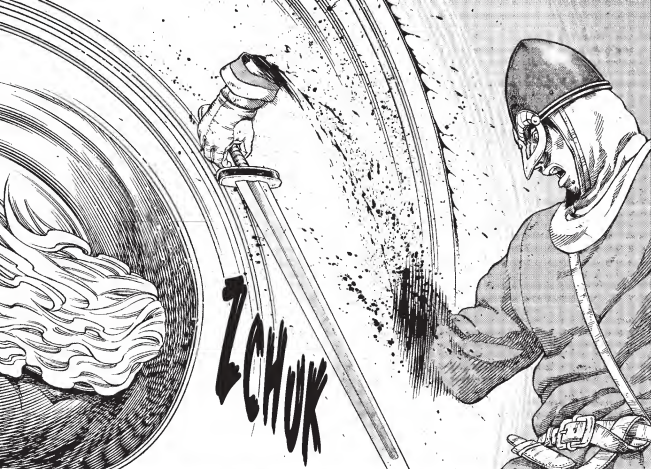
MUTTER...

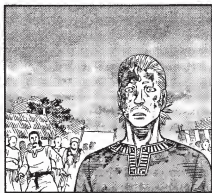
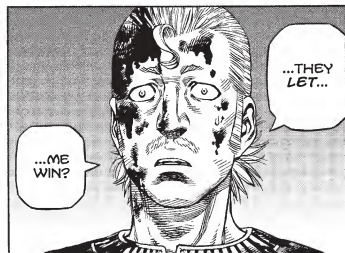
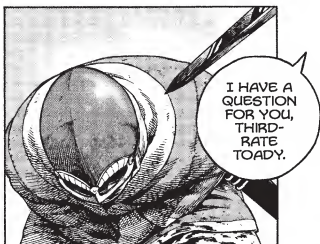
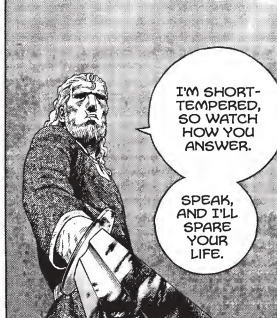




BTT

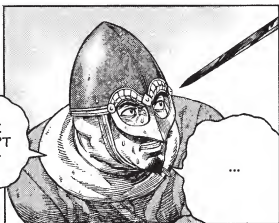






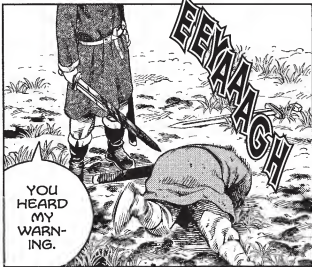


I...I
DON'T
KN-



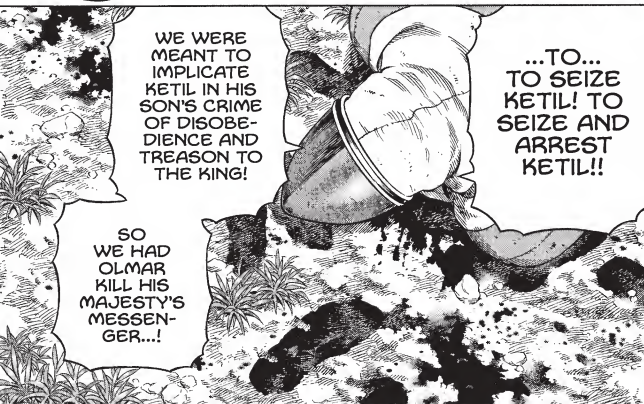
SPEAK.

WHY
DID YOU
PUT
OLMAR
IN THIS
TRAP?



YOU
HEARD
MY
WARN-
ING.

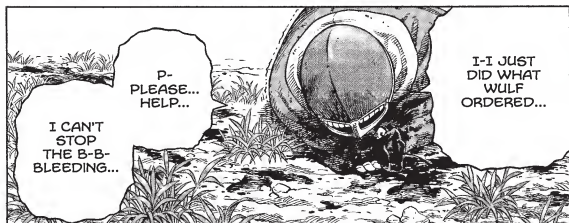
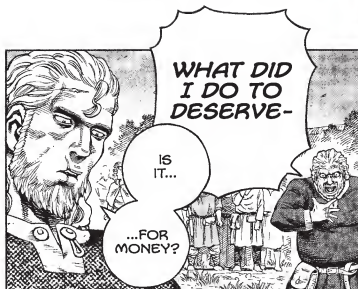
EEYAAAGH

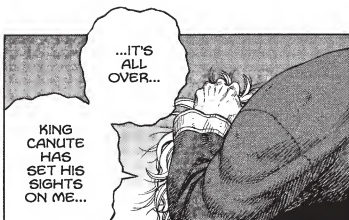


WE WERE
MEANT TO
IMPLICATE
KETIL IN HIS
SON'S CRIME
OF DISOBE-
DIENCE AND
TREASON TO
THE KING!

SO
WE HAD
OLMAR
KILL HIS
MAJESTY'S
MESSEN-
GER...!

...TO...
TO SEIZE
KETIL! TO
SEIZE AND
ARREST
KETIL!!







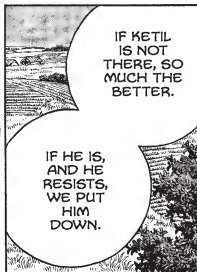
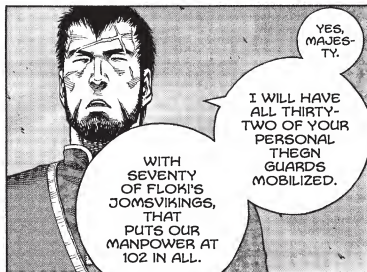
I SEE.

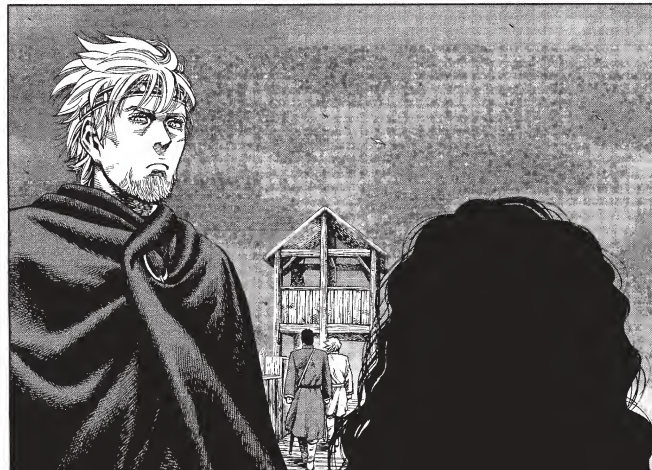
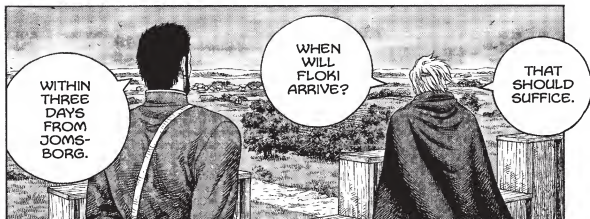
SO
KETIL
AND HIS
FAMILY
FLED.

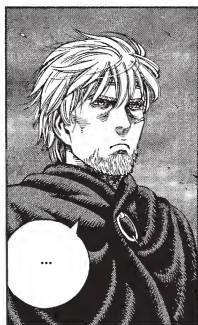


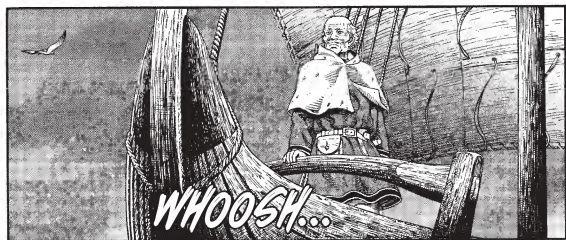
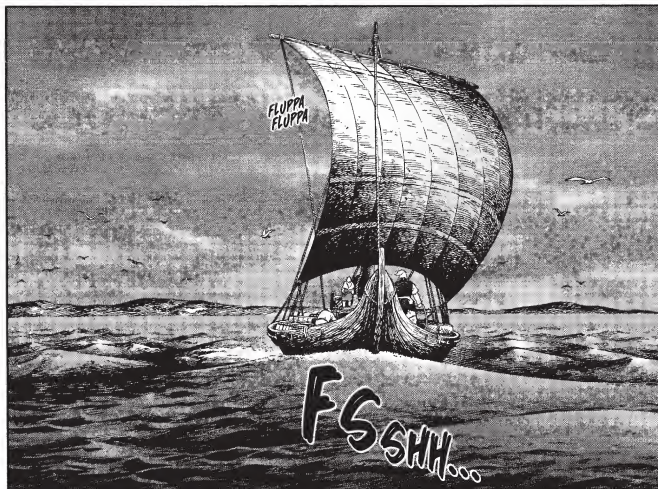
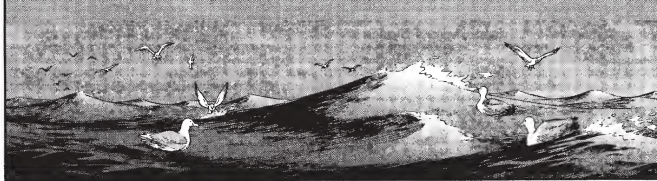
I HAVE
FAILED
YOU, KING
CANUTE.

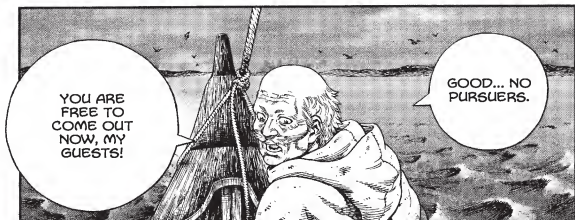
WE FOUND
THEIR SHIP AND
LODGINGS, BUT
THERE IS NO
SIGHT OF THEM.
WE HAVE MEN
SEARCHING
NOW.

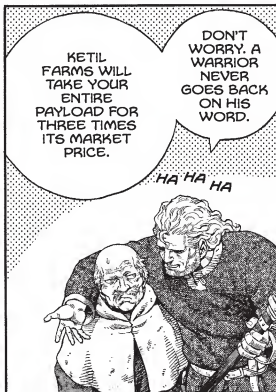
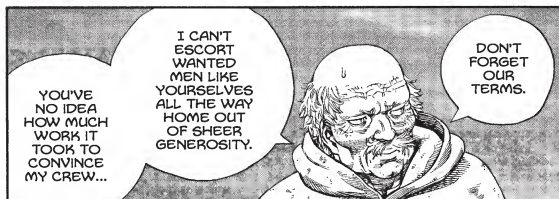
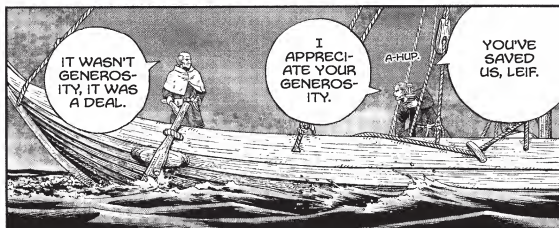


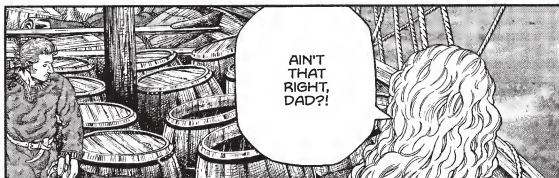














IT IS
NECESSARY
TO BRING
ABOUT MY
PARADISE...

LAUGH
AT ME,
IF YOU
MUST.

CURSE
ME, IF
YOU
MUST.



ALL FOR
THE
SAKE...

...OF THE
LOVE WE
HAVE
LOST.

ENGLAND

After the death of Sweyn, Canute's father, was returned to England, until Canute subjugated it and took the throne. Because of unrest under Danish rule, Canute must keep an occupying force there at all times.



Sea of Norway

Faroes

Shetland

North Sea

Denmark

Elbe R.

Weser R.

Rhine R.

Meuse R.

W. Drina R.

Viola R.

Baltic Sea

Gulf of Finland

Gulf of Bothnia

Sweden

Norway

Isle

Finland

Lake Ladoga

KETIL'S FARM

A rich, vast farm where Thorfinn works as a slave. Ketil often voyages to Jelling to offer generous tributes to the king for protection.



THORFINN



KETIL



SNAKE



SVERKEL



ARNHEID



OLMAR

JELLING

The capital of Denmark. Canute poisoned his brother Harald and took the throne of Denmark here.

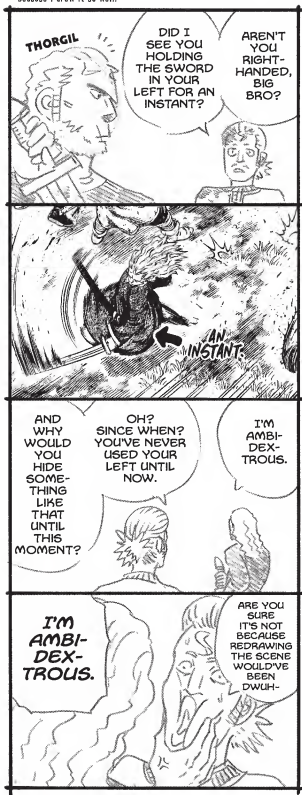


CANUTE



WULF

Because I drew it so well.

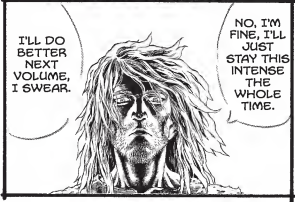
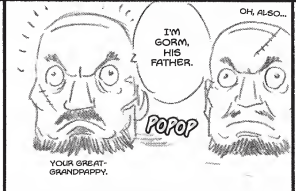
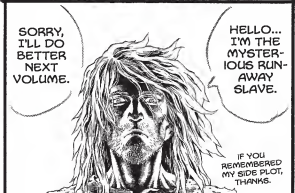
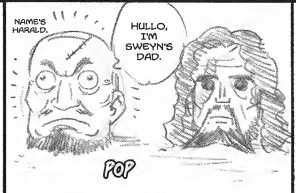


...He's ambidextrous.

VINLAND
SAGA
FLIGHTS
OF
FANCY

I
SWEAR,
FOUR
IS TOO
MUCH
!!

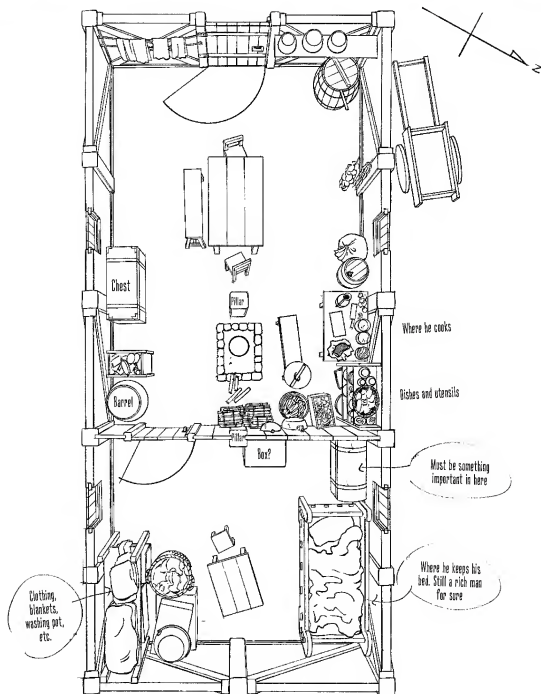
MAKOTO YUKIMURA



SUPPLEMENTAL
DESIGNS

OLD MASTER'S HOUSE (MAIN WING)

SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING...
DON'T KNOW WHAT, THOUGH...



It even surprises the author how many fathers and sons appear in this manga. Some are close, and others are not. My father is a strong and healthy judo athlete, a serious man who wore a crisp suit to work every morning and never caused trouble for our family with drinking or gambling. He's the perfect example of a good father, if I'm allowed to say so myself. I wanted to be independent from him as soon as possible. I felt ashamed to be under his care, didn't like having to follow his opinions, and swore that I wouldn't follow his influence. So I practiced kendo instead of judo. Of course, the fact that I would choose another combat style for my activity already says a lot, doesn't it? We didn't butt heads about things; if anything, we were close. But I wanted to be as far from him as I could be. That's what me and my father are like. I kind of hope that my sons are the same way with me. Grow up on your own, boys. Hmm...wait, doesn't that mean I have to be a perfect example of a good father, too? I don't know if I can live up to that...

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
SAGA**

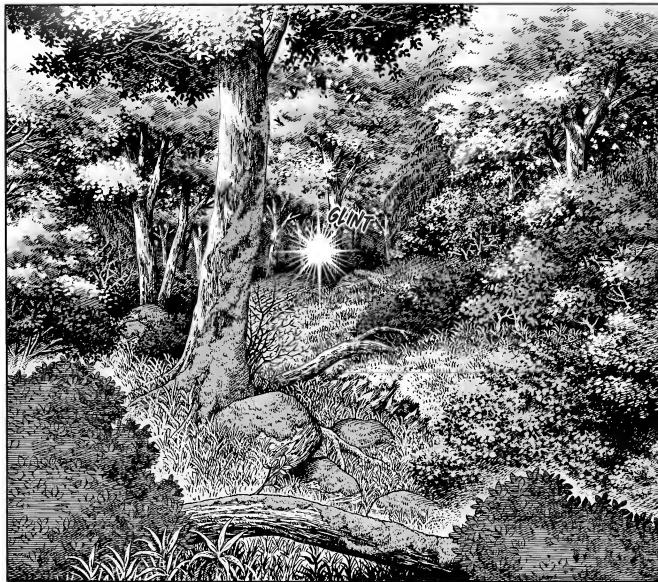


ヴァンランド・サガ

VINLAND SAGA



**CHAPTER 79: PORTENTS OF
STORM CLOUDS**





SEE?
THERE.

THE HILT OF
THE SWORD
IS CATCHING
THE SUN.



JUDGING BY
THE STATE
HE'S IN, I'D
SAY HE WAS
A BEGGAR
OR PILGRIM...

SEEMS
THAT
WAY.

IS HE
JUST
SLEEPING,
OR WHAT?



PLUS
THE WAY
HE'S RESTING
IN THE MIDST
OF THE
WOODS,
LIKE HE'S
HIDING.

...BUT THOSE
TYPES DON'T
USUALLY
CARRY A
SWORD.

NO,
INDEED.

YES,
INDEED.

PRETTY
FISHY,
WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?

YOU TWO
OUGHT TO
KEEP YOUR
VOICES
DOWN.



THE
RUN-
AWAY...

...THE
WANTED
FUGITIVE
SLAVE.



THINK
THAT'S
HIM?

THE ONE
WORTH
THREE
HORSES...?

I'D
SAY
SO.



LOOK
BEFORE
YOU LEAP,
FOOL!

THEY
SAY HE'S
DEADLY
FEROCIOUS.

I'LL BE
DAMNED!!

WE'VE
HIT THE
JACKPOT
NOW,
FELLAS!



HE KILLED
FIVE MEN AT
KJALLAKR'S
FARM ALL ON
HIS OWN!

VOICES
DOWN.

WHAT, IS
THAT WHAT
YOU'RE AFRAID
OF? WE CAN
TAKE HIM IN
HIS SLEEP
RIGHT NOW!

SNAKE'S
RIGHT; WE
SHOULD
CALL FOR
HELP.

THREE
OF US
AND ONE
OF HIM!



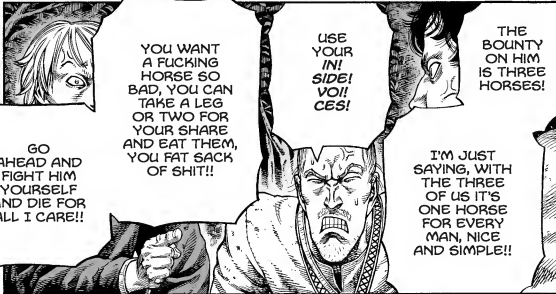
WHY DO YOU
ONLY THINK
ABOUT THINGS
AS IF THEY
REVOLVE
AROUND YOU,
BADGER?!

I SAID
KEEP
YOUR
VOICES
DOWN!

DON'T BE
A PUSSY,
LIZARD!

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HE CAN DO
WITH THE
SWORD!
WHERE'S THAT
CONFIDENCE
COMING
FROM?!

IF WE
CALL FOR
HELP,
THAT'S
EVEN LESS
OF A SHARE
FOR US!



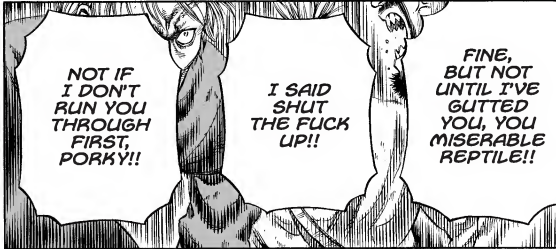
YOU WANT
A FUCKING
HORSE SO
BAD, YOU CAN
TAKE A LEG
OR TWO FOR
YOUR SHARE
AND EAT THEM,
YOU FAT SACK
OF SHIT!!

USE
YOUR
IN!
SIDE!
VOI!
CES!

THE
BOUNTY
ON HIM
IS THREE
HORSES!

GO
AHEAD AND
FIGHT HIM
YOURSELF
AND DIE FOR
ALL I CARE!!

I'M JUST
SAYING, WITH
THE THREE
OF US IT'S
ONE HORSE
FOR EVERY
MAN, NICE
AND SIMPLE!!



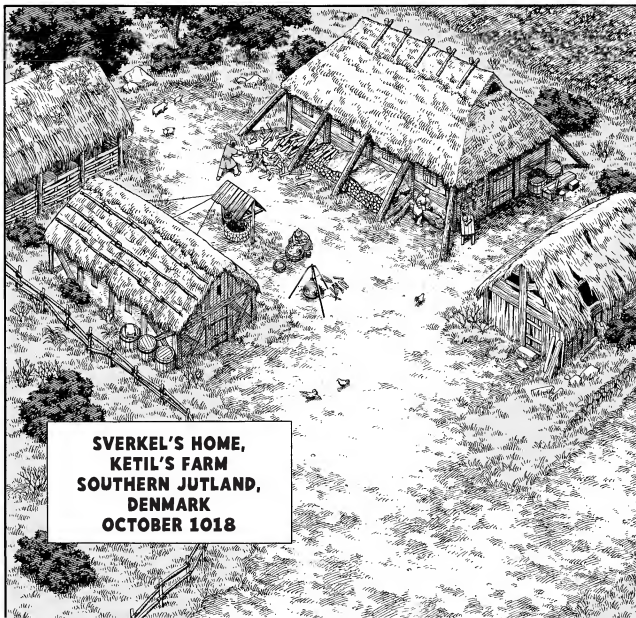
NOT IF
I DON'T
RUN YOU
THROUGH
FIRST,
PORKY!!

I SAID
SHUT
THE FUCK
UP!!

FINE,
BUT NOT
UNTIL I'VE
GUTTED
YOU, YOU
MISERABLE
REPTILE!!

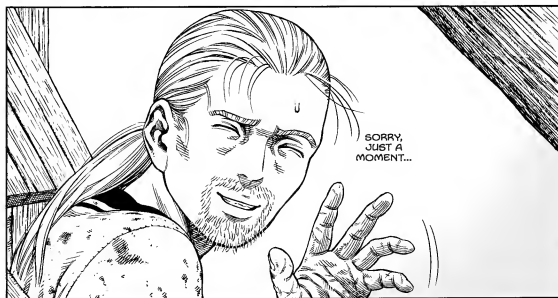






**SVERKEL'S HOME,
KETIL'S FARM
SOUTHERN JUTLAND,
DENMARK
OCTOBER 1018**







Snake's reading the Bible inside. He's listening in.

Oh, er...

What is Thorfinn doing?

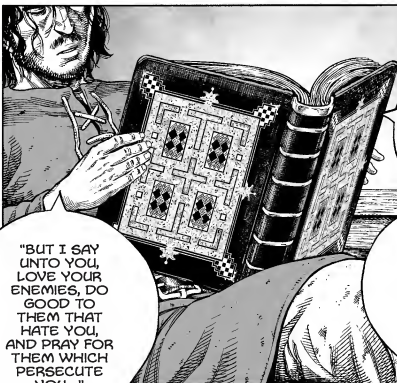
Old master can't read, see?



Actually, he's not.

He just finds it interesting to listen.

Ohh. I didn't realize Thorfinn was a Christian.



"Ye have heard that it hath been said..."

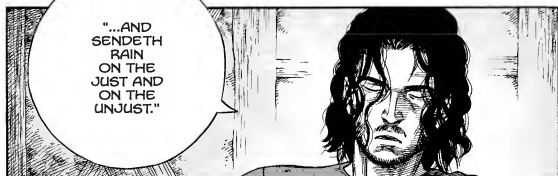
"But I say unto you, love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which persecute you..."

"...thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy."



"FOR HE
MAKETH HIS
SUN TO RISE
ON THE EVIL
AND ON THE
GOOD..."

"...THAT YE
MAY BE THE
CHILDREN
OF YOUR
FATHER
WHICH IS IN
HEAVEN..."



"...AND
SENDETH
RAIN
ON THE
JUST AND
ON THE
UNJUST."



"FOR IF YE
LOVE THEM
WHICH LOVE
YOU, WHAT
REWARD
HAVE YE?"

"DO NOT
EVEN
THE TAX
COLLECTORS
DO THE
SAME?"



"DO NOT
EVEN
PAGANS
DO SO?"



"AND IF YE
SALUTE YOUR
BRETHREN
ONLY, WHAT
DO YE
MORE THAN
OTHERS?"



"...IS
PERFECT."
GOOD
GRIEF.

"BE YE
THERE-
FORE
PERFECT
..."

TALK
ABOUT
A TALL
ORDER.

"...EVEN
AS YOUR
FATHER
WHICH
IS IN
HEAVEN..."



I'M TIRED
OF THE
GOSPELS,
GRAMPS.
ALL THE
LECTURES
ARE DRIVING
ME CRAZY.

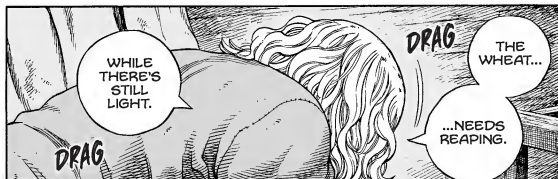
LET'S GO
BACK TO
THE EARLY
STUFF. THAT
WAS A LOT
MORE FUN.

SHUMP
CLANK



WHATCHA
DOIN'?
NEED TO
PISS?

HEY,
GRAMPS.



WHILE
THERE'S
STILL
LIGHT.

DRAG

DRAG

THE
WHEAT...

...NEEDS
REAPING.



MM?



ARNHEID,
COME
HERE.



JUST GO
BACK TO
SLEEP.

I TOLD
YOU, THEY
TOOK CARE
OF THAT
AGES AGO.





I'M JUST
THINKING OF
SELLING OFF
HIS FANCY
BOOK, WHEN
HE KICKS
THE BUCKET,
THAT'S ALL.

HUH?
RELATION-
SHIP?

WE'VE GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH EACH
OTHER.

SUN'S
DROP-
PING.

NOW GET
BACK TO
YOUR
WORK.

SHOO
SHOO

...

PHEW.

SLOSH

SLOSH

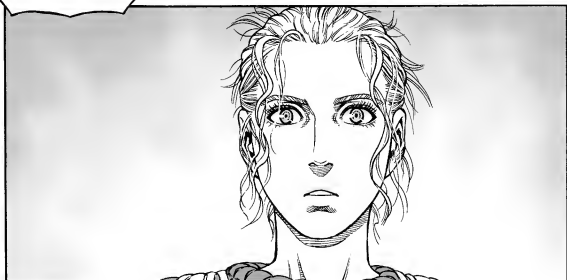
SPLASH



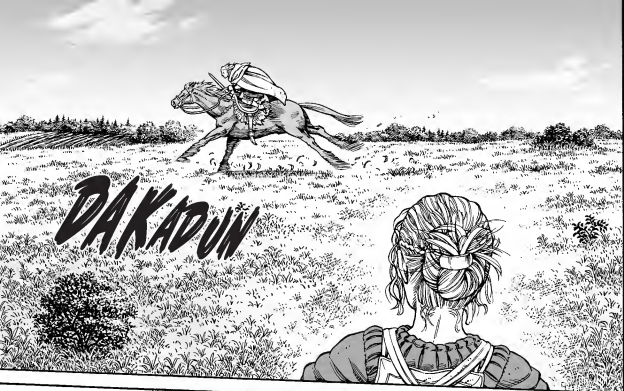


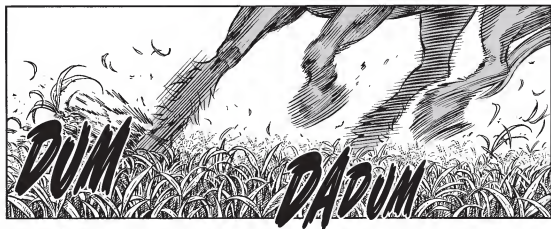
**YOU
THERE!!
STOP
THAT
HORSE!!**

...GUESS
NOT.





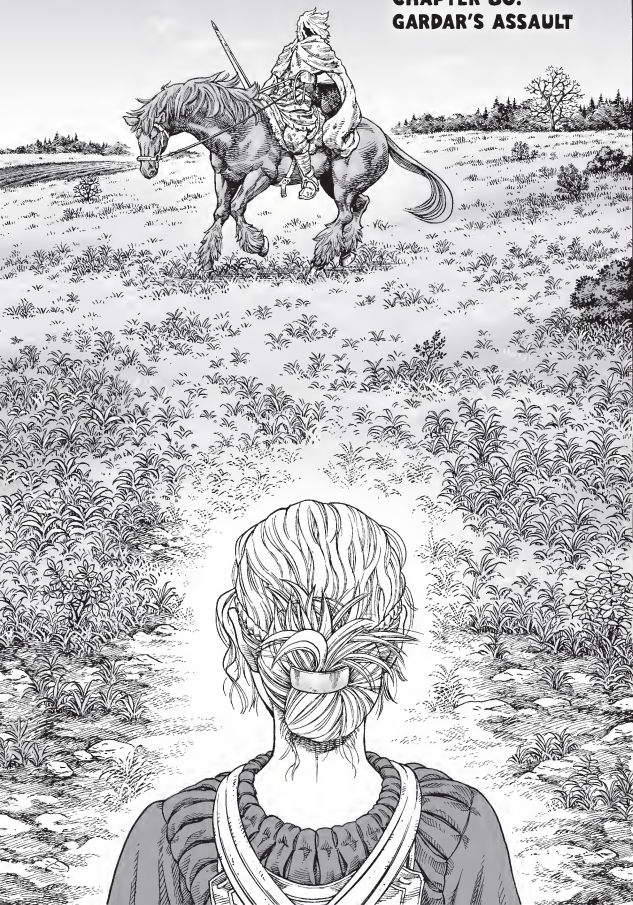


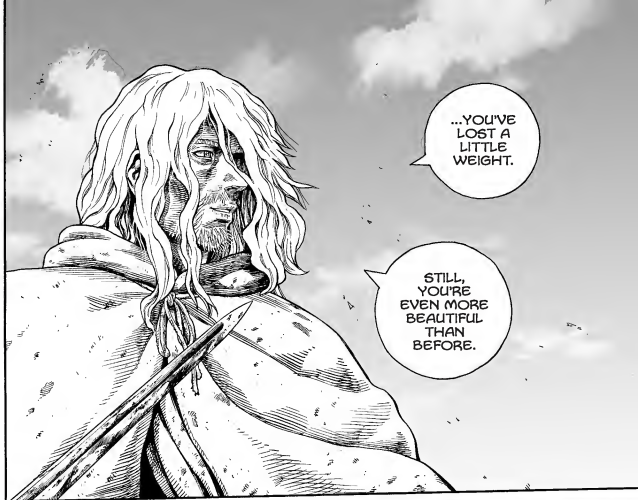


I'VE
FOUND
YOU AT
LAST,
MY
WIFE!!

ARN-
HEID!!

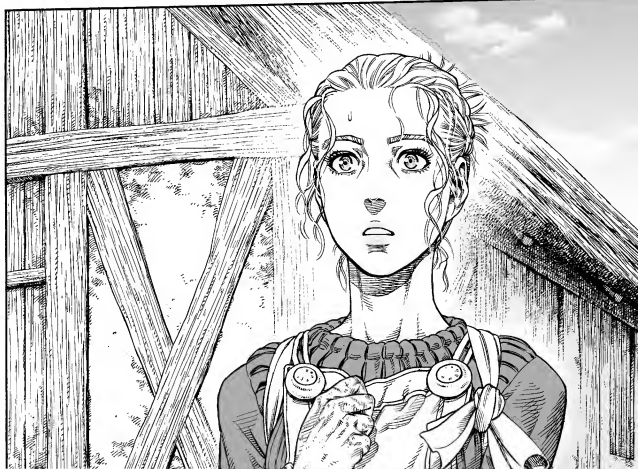
**CHAPTER 80:
GARDAR'S ASSAULT**

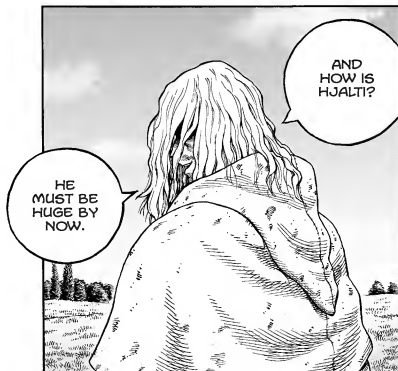
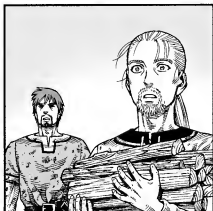
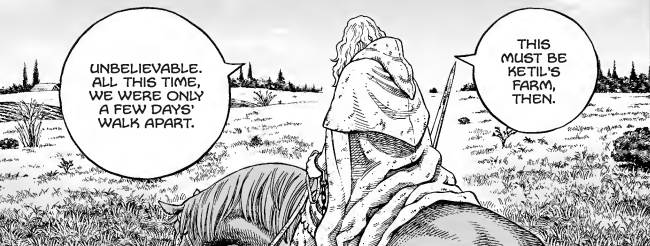


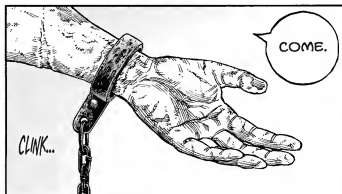
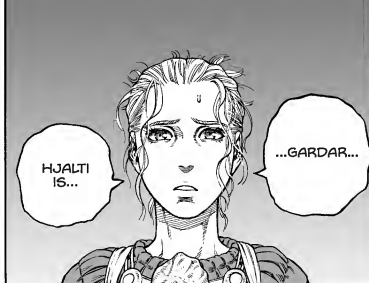


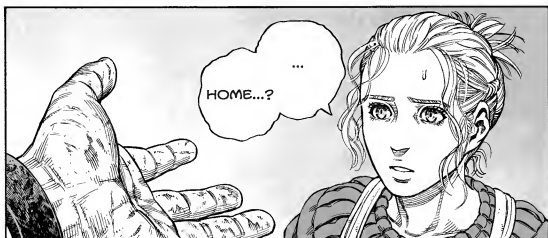
...YOU'VE
LOST A
LITTLE
WEIGHT.

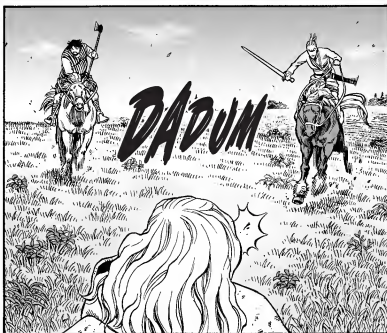
STILL,
YOU'RE
EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL
THAN
BEFORE.

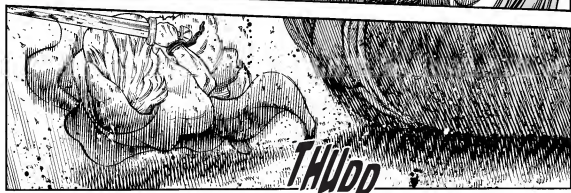
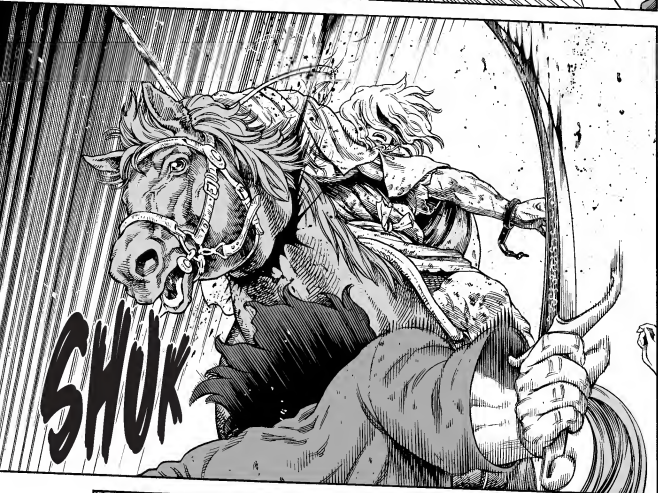
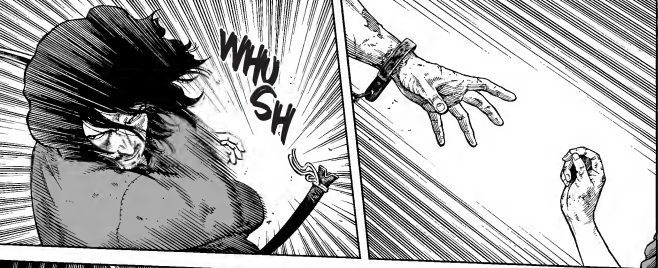




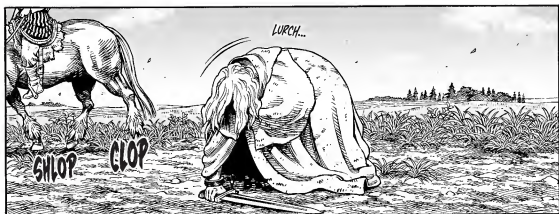


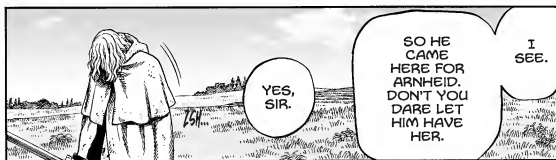
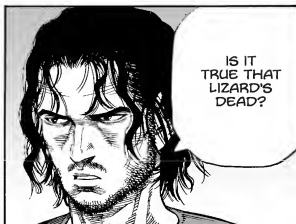
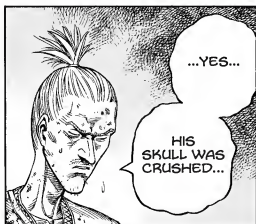




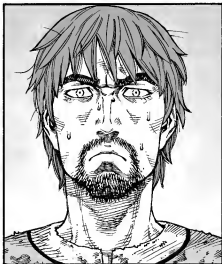
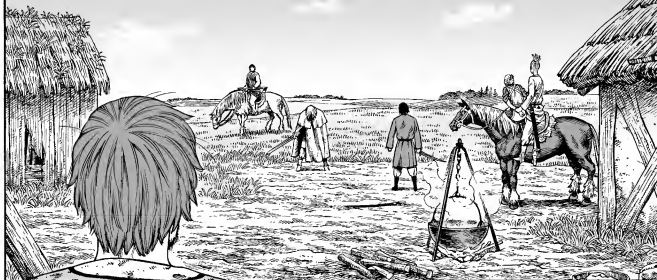












WE'RE
SLAVES
TOO,
THORFINN!
DON'T
YOU WANT
ARNHEID TO
BE FREE?!

I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT'S
GOING ON!
ARNHEID'S
HUSBAND
HAS COME
BACK TO
SAVE HER!!

EINAR,
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I'M
SAYING!!

I KNOW
I DON'T
HAVE THE
STRENGTH
TO
COMPLETE
THE TASK!
BUT...

THREE
MEN NEED
TO GO
DOWN
FOR HER
TO ES-
CAPE!!

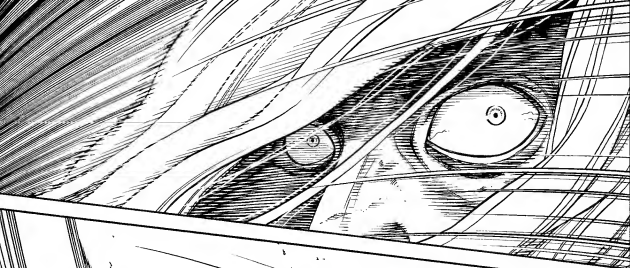
I DO!
BUT
LOOK
AT THE
SITU-
TION!!

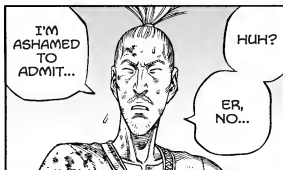
WHETHER
IT'S A
GUEST
OR NOT?!

ARE YOU
CAPABLE
OF USING
THAT AXE
TO TAKE
A LIFE?!

CAN
YOU
KILL A
MAN
?!











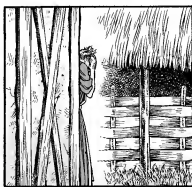


CHAPTER 81: STORM





ARNHEI!!!D!

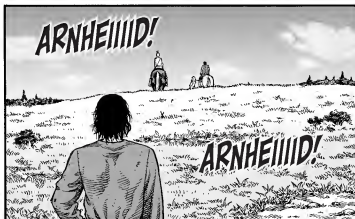
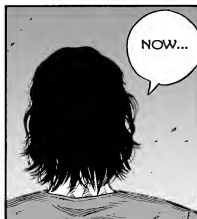


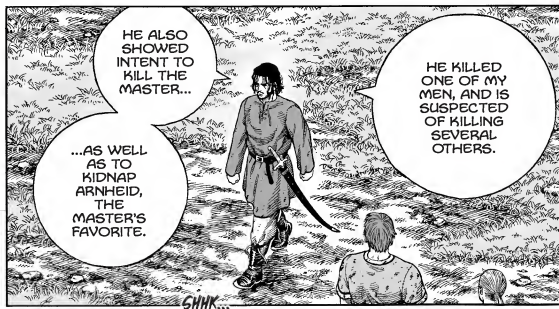
YES
SIR.

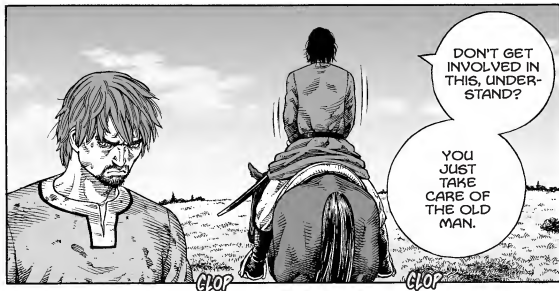
ALSO, SEND
A MESSAGE
TO
KJALLAKR'S
UNCLE OR
WHOEVER
THAT WE'VE
CAUGHT THEIR
FUGITIVE.

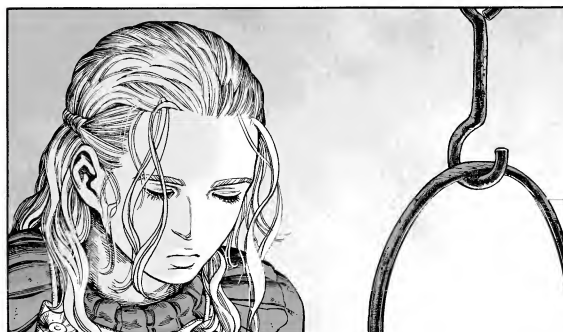
DON'T BE
CARELESS
AROUND
HIM.
KEEP FIVE
GUARDS AT
ALL TIMES.

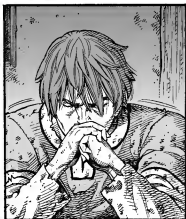
ARNHEI!!!D!

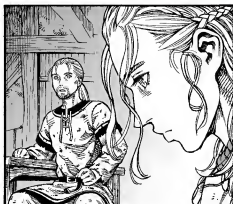
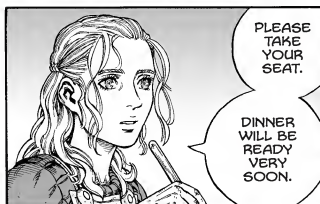


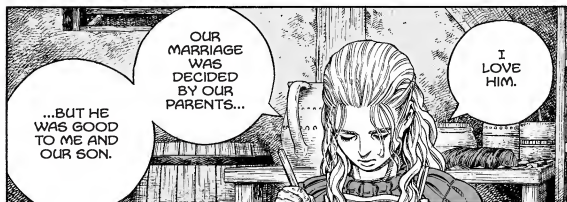
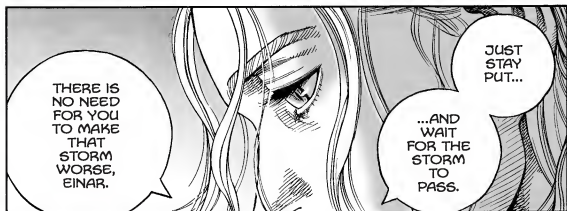
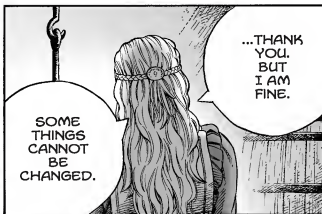










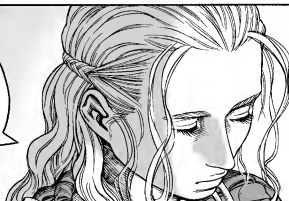




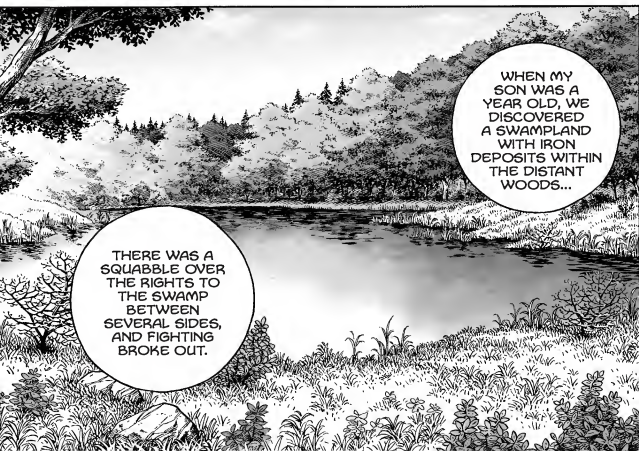


UH,
OKAY...

IT WAS
VERY...
NORMAL.
NEITHER
RICH NOR
POOR...



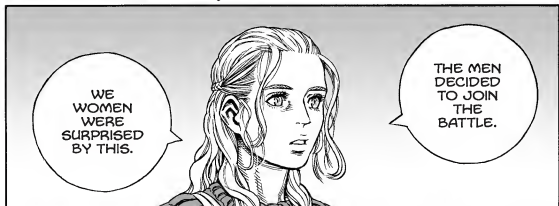
OUR FAMILY
LIVED IN A
SETTLEMENT
IN SWEDEN.

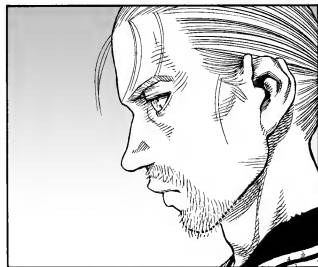
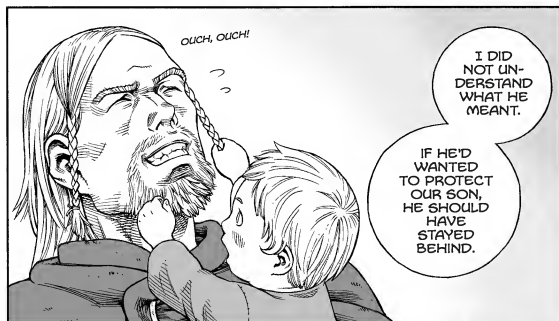
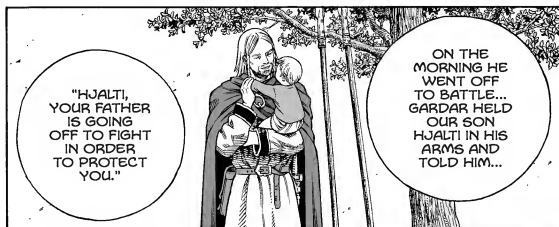


WHEN MY
SON WAS A
YEAR OLD, WE
DISCOVERED
A SWAMPLAND
WITH IRON
DEPOSITS WITHIN
THE DISTANT
WOODS...

THERE WAS A
SQUABBLE OVER
THE RIGHTS TO
THE SWAMP
BETWEEN
SEVERAL SIDES,
AND FIGHTING
BROKE OUT.





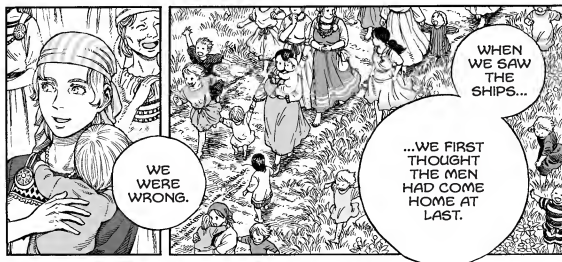
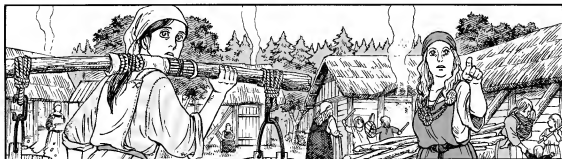




THE
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
STAYED BEHIND
TO PROTECT
THE HOMES...

ALL THE
YOUNG
MEN
WENT TO
BATTLE.

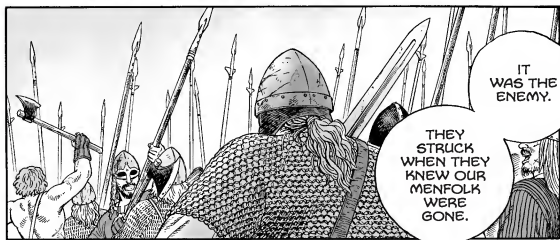
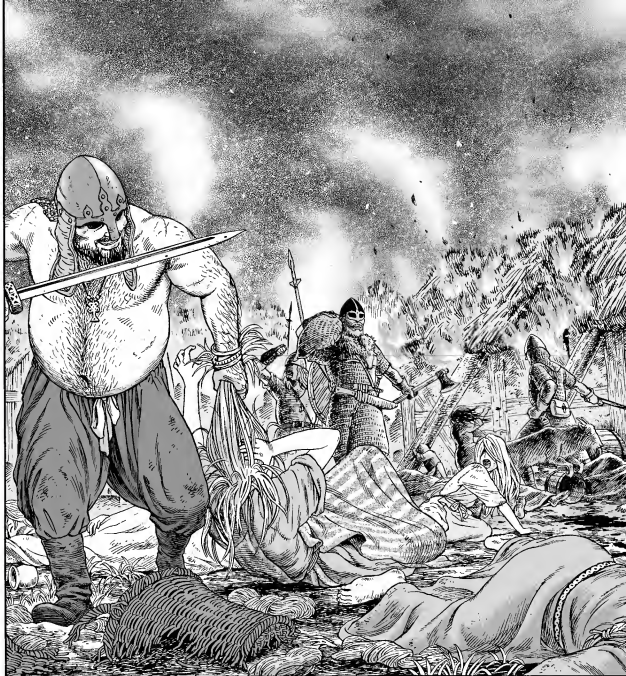
...AND
SEVERAL
WEEKS
PASSED.



WHEN
WE SAW
THE
SHIPS...

WE
WERE
WRONG.

...WE FIRST
THOUGHT
THE MEN
HAD COME
HOME AT
LAST.





THE
WOMEN
WERE
LOADED
ONTO SHIPS
AND TAKEN
AWAY.

THE
ELDERLY
WERE
SLAUGHTERED.

OUR
HOMES
WERE
BURNED.



THEY SAID
THAT AN
"UNMARRIED
WOMAN"
WOULD FETCH
A BETTER
PRICE AT
MARKET.

...THEY
TOOK
HJALTI
AWAY
FROM
ME.

AND
THEN...



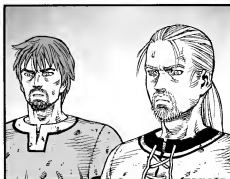
IF
HE'D JUST
WEATHERED
THE
STORM...

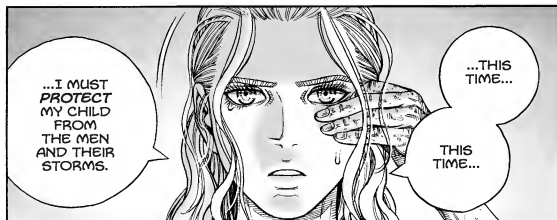
BUT
INSTEAD,
OUR SUFFERING
NEVER ENDED.

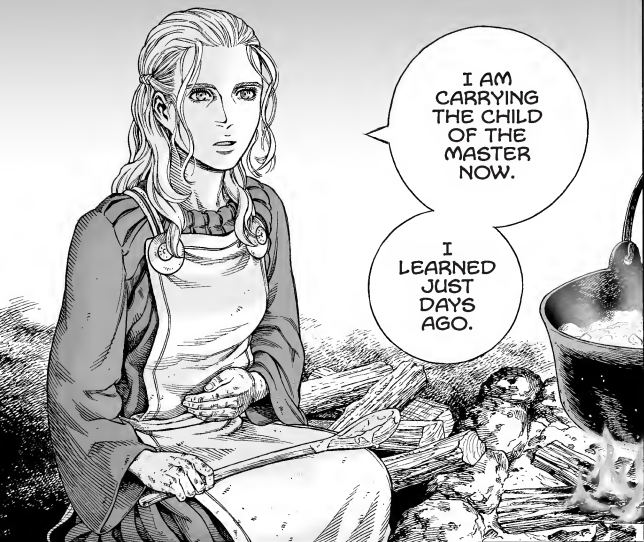
IF
GARDAR
HADN'T
GONE
OFF TO
TAKE PART
IN THAT
BATTLE...



...

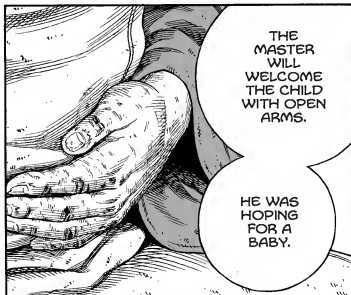






I AM
CARRYING
THE CHILD
OF THE
MASTER
NOW.

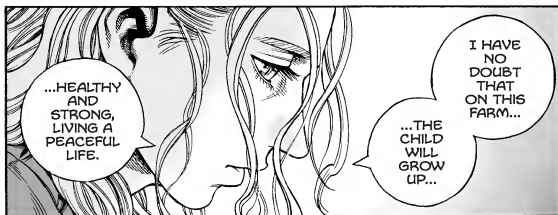
I
LEARNED
JUST
DAYS
AGO.



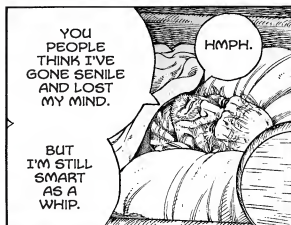
THE
MASTER
WILL
WELCOME
THE CHILD
WITH OPEN
ARMS.

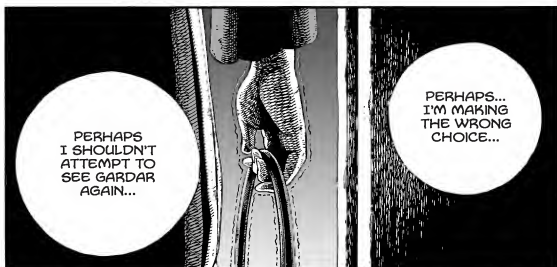
HE WAS
HOPING
FOR A
BABY.







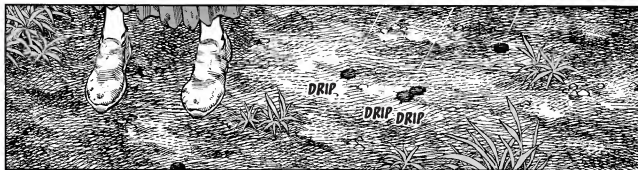




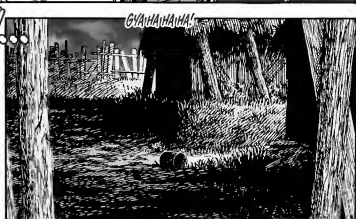
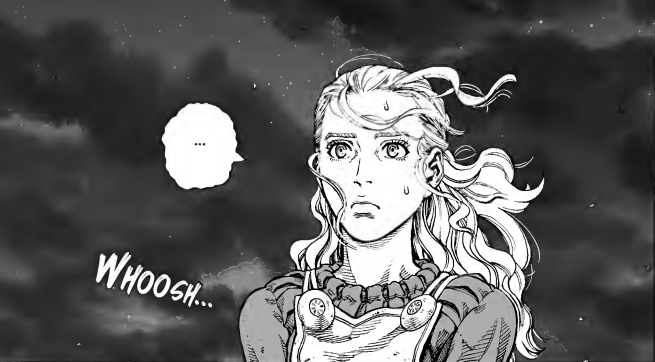


CHAPTER 82: BONDAGE



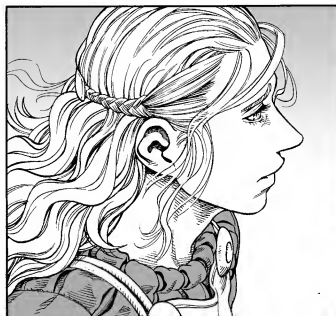


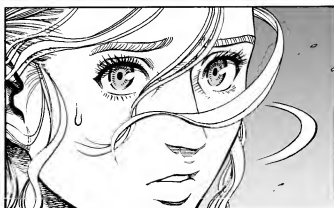
**GUEST
(BODYGUARD)
LODGING,
KETIL'S FARM**



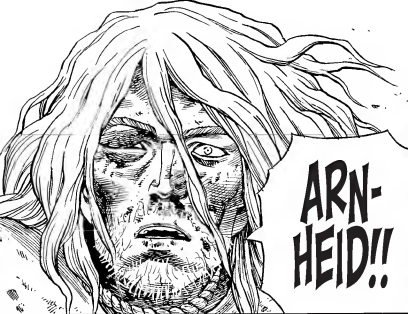












ARN-
HEID!!

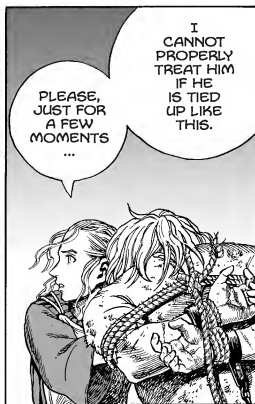
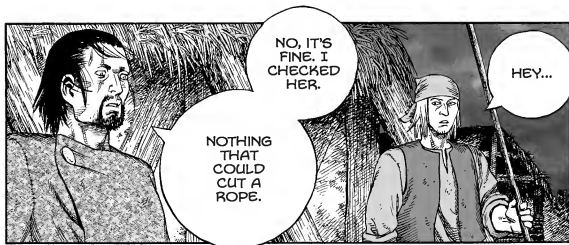


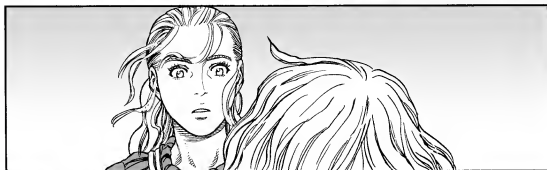
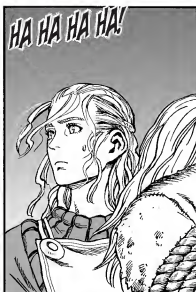
CUT MY
ROPES,
ARNHEID.

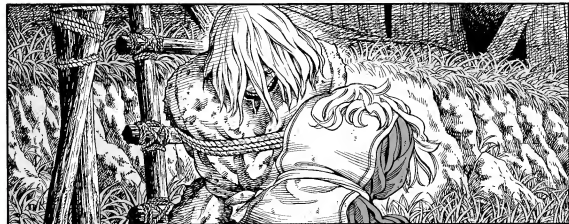
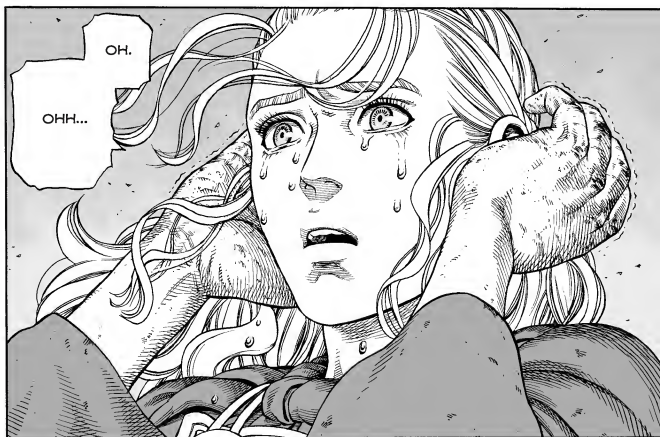
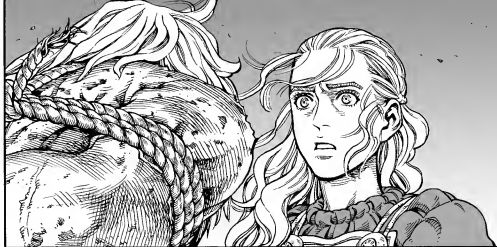
LET'S
GO BACK
HOME.



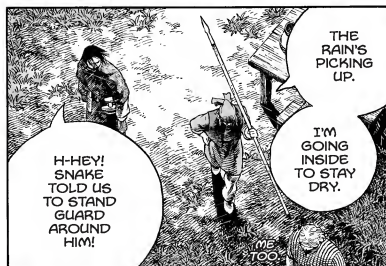
...THEY
BEAT
YOU...



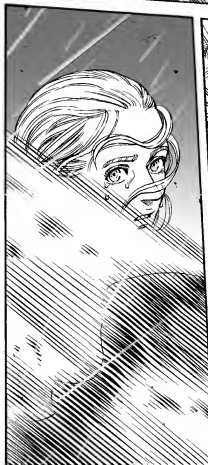






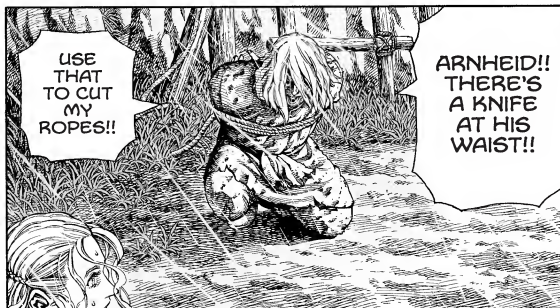
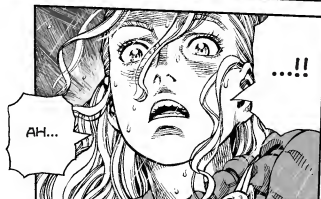


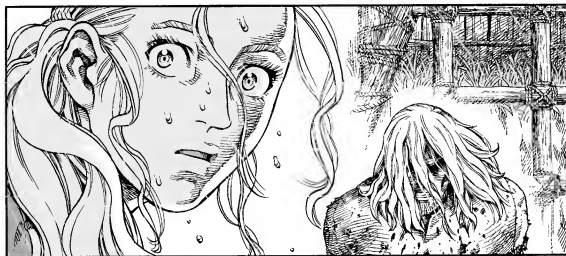
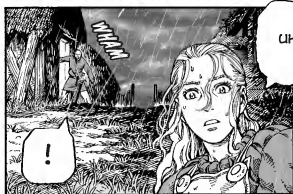
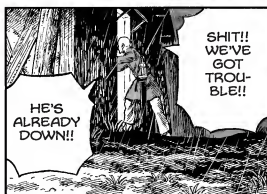


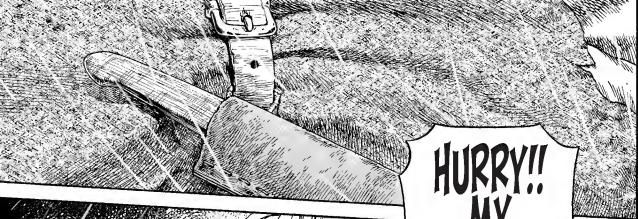




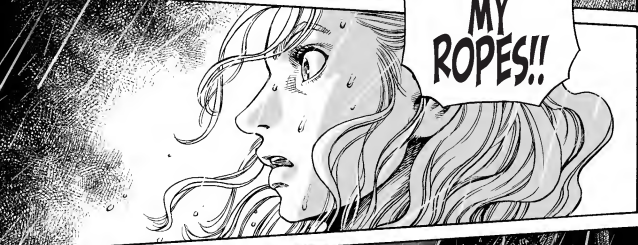








**HURRY!!
MY
ROPES!!**



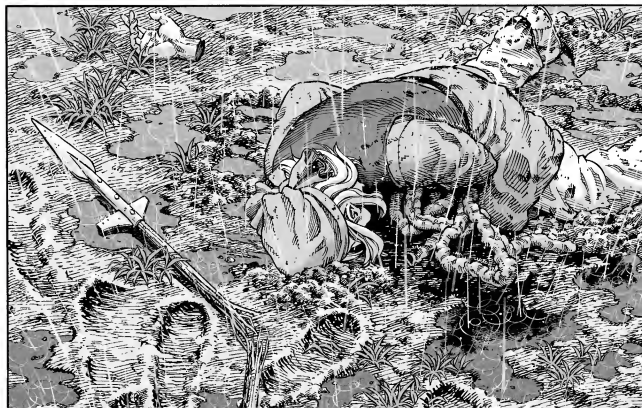
**OR WE'LL
BOTH BE
KILLED!!**





CHAPTER 83: ATONEMENT









YOU
IDIOTS...

AFTER
ALL MY
WARNINGS
TO TAKE HIM
SERIOUSLY...



IT'S HIS
SWORD.

LOOK
AT THE
TIP.



SNAKE!
COME
QUICK!!



HE
STABBED
SOMEONE
WITH IT.

THE RAIN
WASHED THE
BLOOD AWAY,
BUT THERE'S
STILL FAT
ALONG THE
END.



WOUNDS
ON
TOP OF
WOUNDS
...

THERE
WERE NO
HORSES
LEFT IN THE
FORTRESS
HERE.



LOOKS
DEEP.

AYE.



WE'RE
GOING
TO FIND
HIM AND
FINISH
HIM OFF,
HERE
ON THE
FARM!!

HE
CAN'T
HAVE
GONE
FAR!!

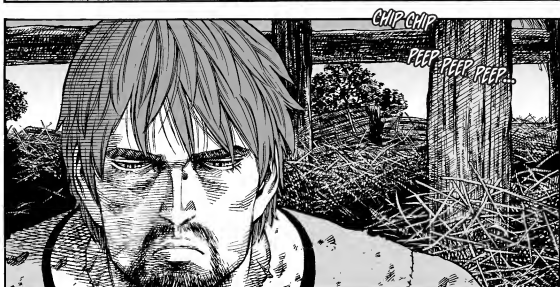
LET'S
TRACK
HIM
DOWN!!



...AND
KILL
HIM!!

I'LL
FIND
HIM...







...DID
YOU EVEN
SLEEP,
EINAR?

MORNING.



TSUK...



HMM
?

AHH...
NO...

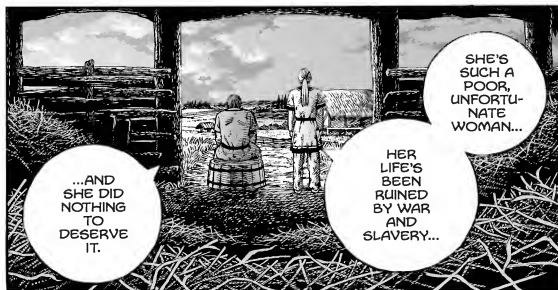
I NEVER
HEARD YOU
MOANING
AND
YELLING
IN YOUR
SLEEP.

I
DARE-
SAY YOU
HAVEN'T
EITHER,
THORFINN.



TO MAKE
SURE I
DIDN'T
SNEAK OFF
IN THE NIGHT
AND DO
SOMETHING
RECKLESS?

WERE
YOU
KEEPING
WATCH
OVER
ME?





I LIVED
AT WAR
FOR
YEARS
AND
YEARS...

...IT
HURTS
TO HEAR
YOU SAY
THAT.



I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID
THAT.

ER,
NO...

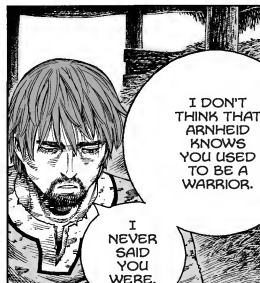
I'M
SORRY.

I DON'T
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
CLAIM IT
"HURTS."
FORGET I
SAID IT.



...THANK
YOU...

IT'S
PATHETIC
TO ADMIT...
BUT I'M AFRAID
OF PEOPLE
LIKE HER
LEARNING THE
TRUTH ABOUT
ME...



I DON'T
THINK THAT
ARNHEID
KNOWS
YOU USED
TO BE A
WARRIOR.

I
NEVER
SAID
YOU
WERE.



HOW
COULD I DO
THOSE TERRIBLE
THINGS TO
PEOPLE AND
NEVER THINK
ABOUT WHAT I
WAS DOING?

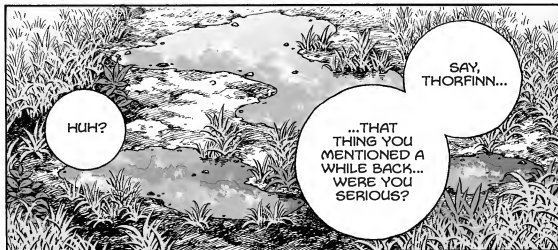
IN
THE PAST...
I NEVER
GAVE A
THOUGHT TO
IT.



...I CAN'T
IMAGINE
YOU
FIGHTING
LIKE
THAT.



LOOKING
AT YOU
NOW...



HUH?

SAY,
THORFINN...

...THAT
THING YOU
MENTIONED A
WHILE BACK...
WERE YOU
SERIOUS?



"ELIMINATING
WARFARE AND
SLAVERY FROM
THE WORLD."

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
SAID.



...BUT YOU'VE
EXPERIENCED
BOTH OF
THEM. DID
YOU HAVE
SOME GREAT
IDEA?

IT
SOUNDED
LIKE A
DREAM
TO ME...



WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

HOW
WOULD
WE GET
RID OF
WAR AND
SLAVERY?



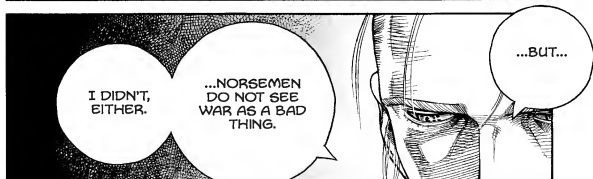
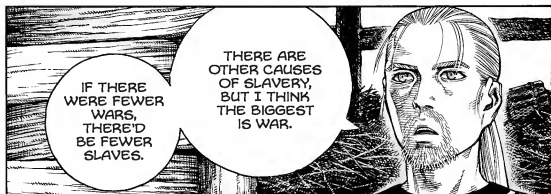
I ONLY
KNOW
WHAT I'VE
EXPERIENCED
FOR
MYSELF.



IT
IS CLEAR
THAT WAR
CREATES
MUCH
SLAVERY.

THE
PEOPLE ON
THE LOSING
SIDE BECOME
SLAVES, LIKE
ARNHEID.

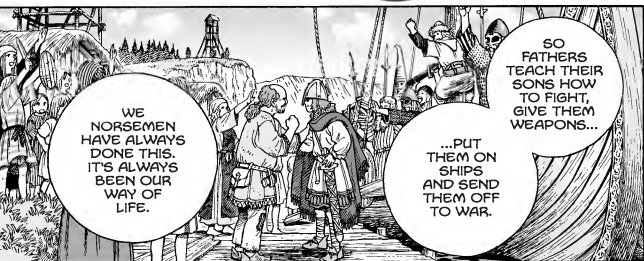
THE
BOUNDARY
BETWEEN
WARRIORS AND
SLAVERS IS A
TENUOUS ONE.
IT IS DIFFICULT
TO SEPARATE
THE TWO.





THE MORE
ENEMIES
YOU KILL AND
VALUABLES
YOU
PLUNDER, THE
GREATER THE
RESPECT YOU
EARN.

ALL OF
A MAN'S
PRIDE
RESTS
ON
THIS.



WE
NORSEMEN
HAVE ALWAYS
DONE THIS.
IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN OUR
WAY OF
LIFE.

SO
FATHERS
TEACH THEIR
SONS HOW
TO FIGHT,
GIVE THEM
WEAPONS...

...PUT
THEM ON
SHIPS
AND SEND
THEM OFF
TO WAR.

IT'S HARD
TO STOP
DOING
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

IT'S LIKE
TELLING
SOMEONE
TO STOP
BREATH-
ING.

FIGHTING
IS JUST
TAKEN FOR
GRANTED.





IS IT
REALLY
THAT
STRANGE
TO SWEAR
NOT TO
HARM
OTHERS?

BUT THEN
THERE ARE
MEN LIKE
YOU.

YOU'RE A
NORSEMAN,
BUT YOU
MANAGED TO
STOP.



...WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...?



YOU
WOULD BE
CALLED A
COWARD.

IN
NORDIC
SOCIETY,
YES.

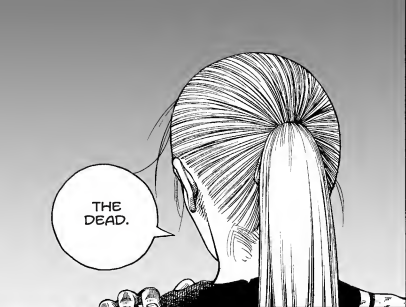
AND
COWARDS
ARE
SHUNNED.



ALL I KNOW IS
LEAVING THAT
LIFE SEEMED
FAR BETTER
TO ME THAN
BEING TO
FORCED TO
BEAR MORE
OF THEM.

BUT
THAT'S
FINE.

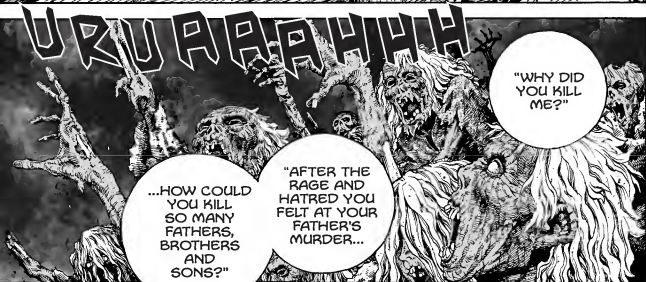
THAT'S
BEYOND MY
ABILITY TO
CHANGE.



THE
DEAD.



"THEM?"





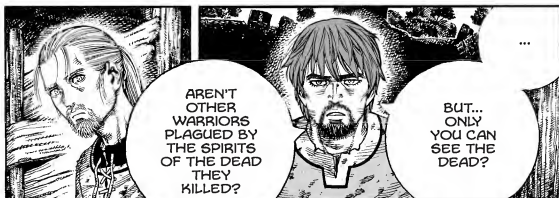
I MUST
ATONE
FOR WHAT
I DID TO
THEM.

I MUST CARRY
THEM TO A
PLACE WHERE
THEY CAN
FINALLY REST
IN PEACE...



BUT
I CAN'T
TAKE ANY
MORE.

THE
BURDEN
OF EVEN
ONE MORE
DEATH
WOULD BE
TOO MUCH.



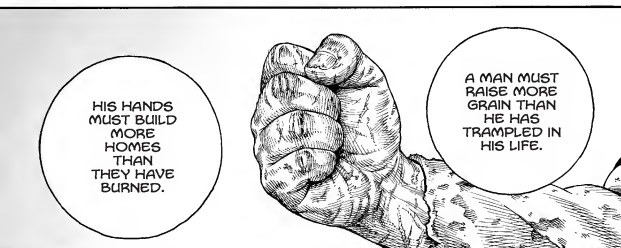




SIMPLY
SWEARING NOT
TO KILL OR
DESTROY ANY
MORE THAN YOU
ALREADY HAVE
DOES NOT ATONE
FOR ALL THE
HARM DONE IN
THE PAST.

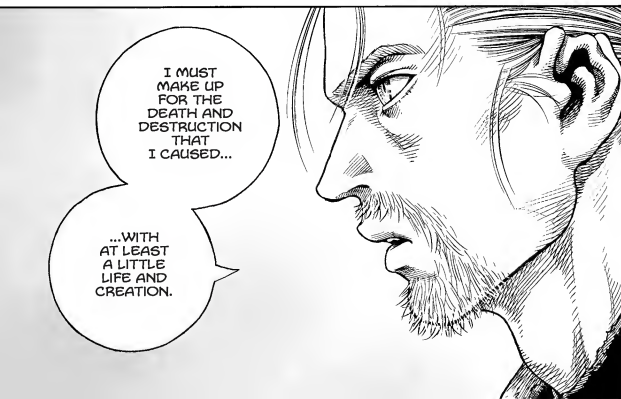
YOU
CANNOT
SIMPLY
GIVE
UP THE
SWORD.

THERE'S
MORE
THAN
THAT, OF
COURSE.



HIS HANDS
MUST BUILD
MORE
HOMES
THAN
THEY HAVE
BURNED.

A MAN MUST
RAISE MORE
GRAIN THAN
HE HAS
TRAMPLED IN
HIS LIFE.

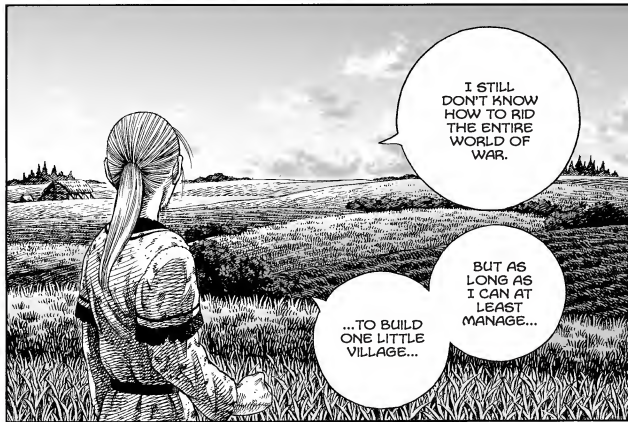


I MUST
MAKE UP
FOR THE
DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION
THAT
I CAUSED...

...WITH
AT LEAST
A LITTLE
LIFE AND
CREATION.



...THOR-
FINN...



I STILL
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO RID
THE ENTIRE
WORLD OF
WAR.

BUT AS
LONG AS
I CAN AT
LEAST
MANAGE...

...TO BUILD
ONE LITTLE
VILLAGE...



AND
THERE...
I HOPE TO
BUILD A
BARROW TO
PLACATE THE
SOULS OF
THE DEAD.

I WANT
TO CREATE A
PLACE THAT
DOES NOT
NEED ANY
SWORDS.



BUT...
HOW
WILL YOU
PROTECT
THAT
PLACE?

I UNDER-
STAND HOW
YOU FEEL,
BUT IF YOU
WILL NOT
FIGHT...



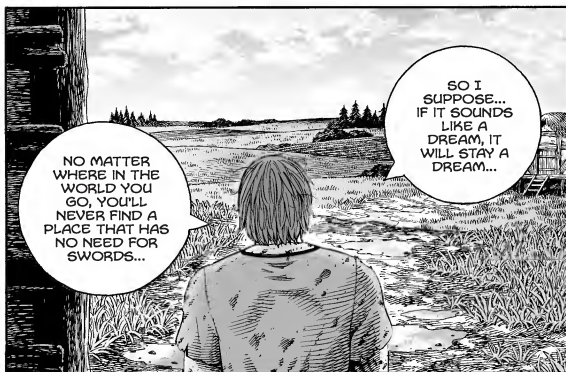
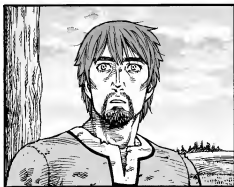


THAT
WOULDN'T
BE
ENOUGH...

...TO ESCAPE
THAT HELL
OF ENDLESS
SLAUGHTER.

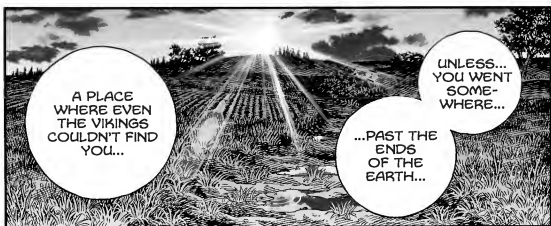


...



NO MATTER
WHERE IN THE
WORLD YOU
GO, YOU'LL
NEVER FIND A
PLACE THAT HAS
NO NEED FOR
SWORDS...

SO I
SUPPOSE...
IF IT SOUNDS
LIKE A
DREAM, IT
WILL STAY A
DREAM...



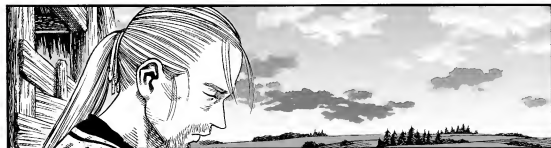
A PLACE
WHERE EVEN
THE VIKINGS
COULDN'T FIND
YOU...

UNLESS...
YOU WENT
SOME-
WHERE...

...PAST THE
ENDS OF THE
EARTH...



A PLACE...
FOR ALL OF
THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN
SHUNNED BY
SOCIETY...



...IT'S VERY
STRANGE...

I FEEL AS
THOUGH...

...I'VE SPOKEN
ABOUT THIS
BEFORE, IN
THE VERY
DISTANT
PAST...

WHOOSH...



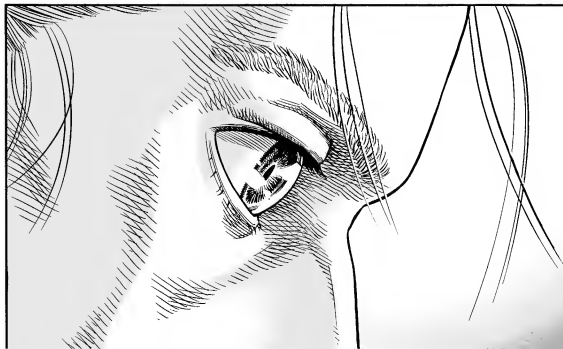
IF
THERE
WERE A
LAND...
ACROSS
THE
HORIZON...

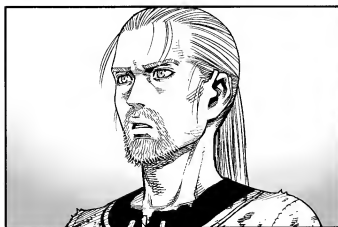
A LAND
WITHOUT
WAR OR
SLAVERS...

IF
THERE
WERE A
LAND OF
PEACE...

...THAT'S
NOT
HERE...

SOME-
WHERE...

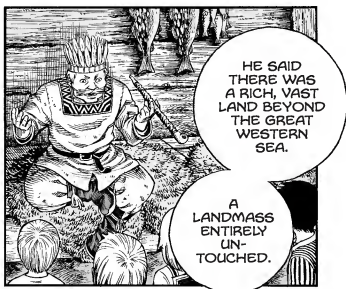
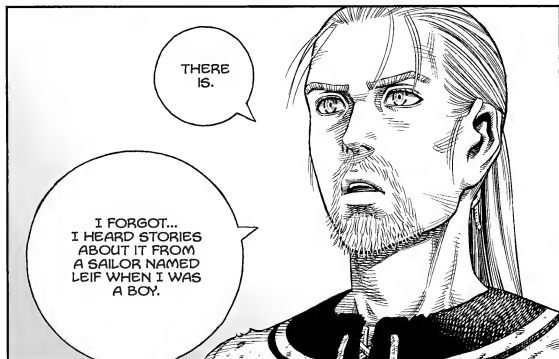




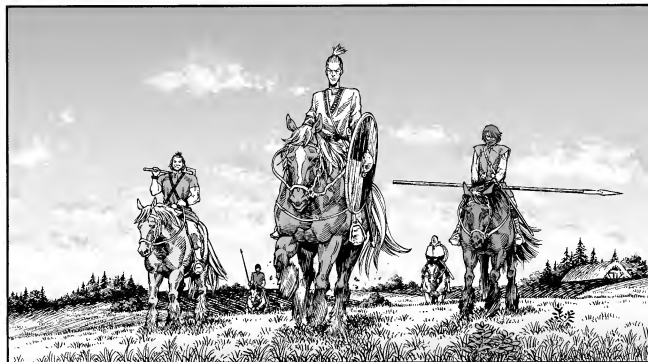
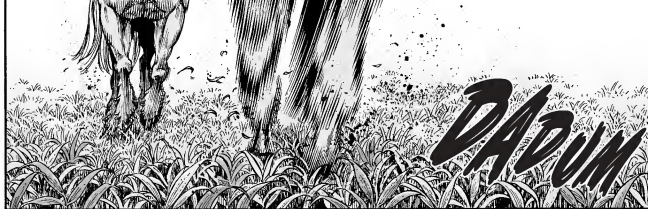
A PLACE
FAR, FAR
BEYOND
THE
HORIZON...

A PLACE
WHERE NO
POWER CAN
REACH.

A PLACE
NO SLAVER
KNOWS.









CAREFUL,
HE'S DEADLY.

PBBET

AYE.

STOMP

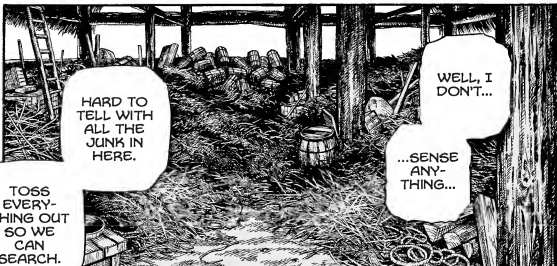
STOMP

STOMP



???

UM...
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE? IT'S
TOO EARLY
FOR THIS...



HARD TO
TELL WITH
ALL THE
JUNK IN
HERE.

TOSS
EVERY-
THING OUT
SO WE
CAN
SEARCH.

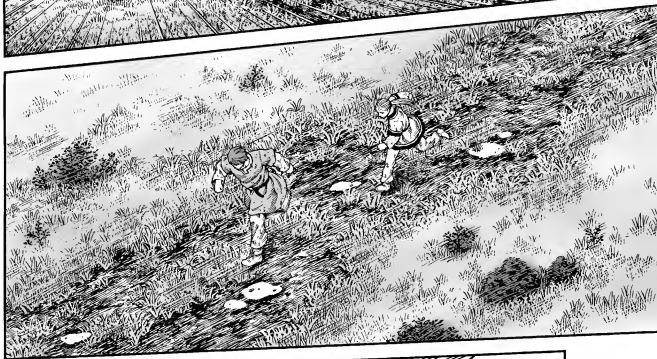
WELL, I
DON'T...

...SENSE
ANY-
THING...



CHAPTER 84: A CONVENIENT DREAM





IF
GARDAR'S
ESCAPED-
THAT
MEANS-!

HE'S
GOING TO
ABDUCT
ARNHEID!

HUFF

HUFF

I
CAN'T
STOP
NOW!!

HUFF

I
DON'T
KNOW!

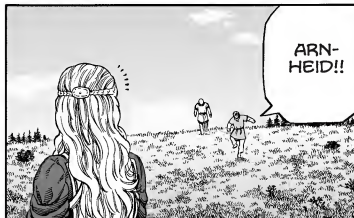
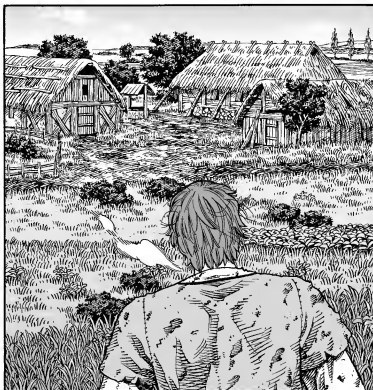
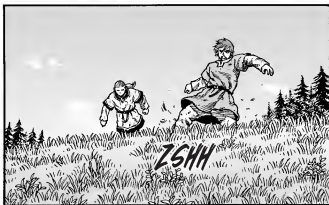
DRIVE
GARDAR
AWAY?!

WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
DO WHEN
YOU GET
TO HER
PLACE?!

...SHE
DOESN'T
GET MORE
MISERABLE
THAN SHE
ALREADY
IS!!

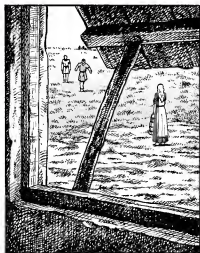
ALL I
KNOW
IS-

I WANT
TO DO
SOME-
THING FOR
ARNHEID
TO MAKE
SURE...



IT'S
THOSE
TWO SLAVES.
WHAT WERE
THEIR NAMES,
AGAIN...?

NOT
HIM.



...
THORFINN
AND
EINAR.

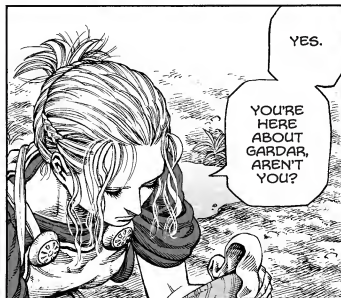
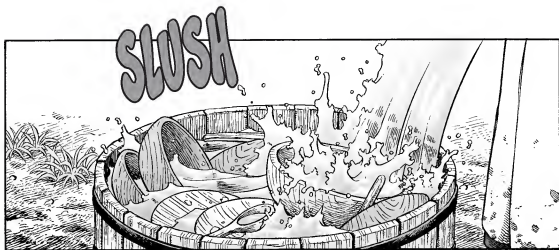
...NO,
DON'T
BOTHER.

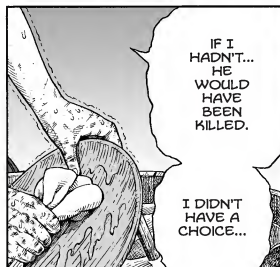
LET
THEM
DO AS
THEY
WILL.



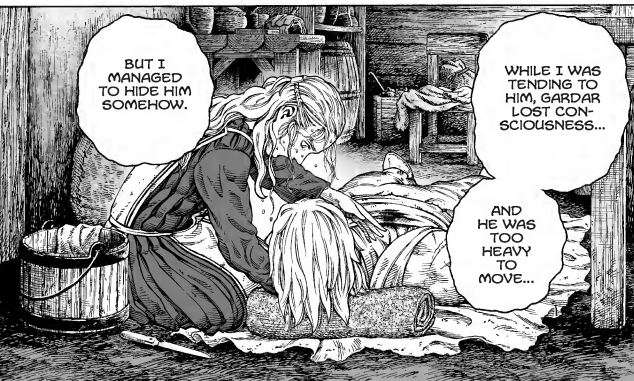
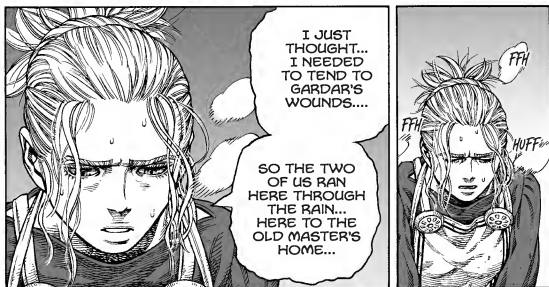
WHAT'S
THE CALL?
SHOULD WE
DRIVE THEM
OFF?

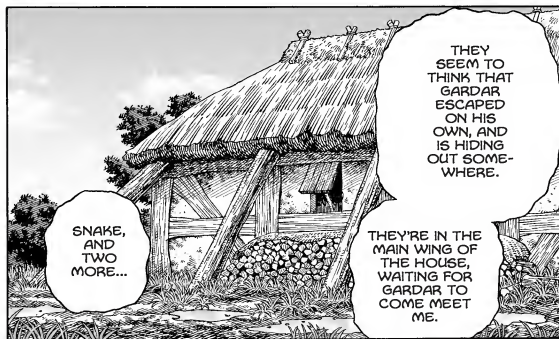








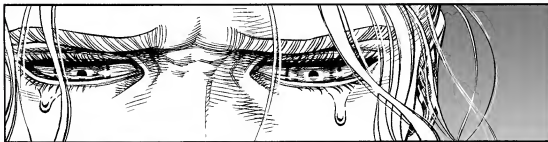
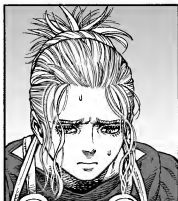






WHY DID
I SLIP OUT
LAST NIGHT
TO SEE
GARDAR...?

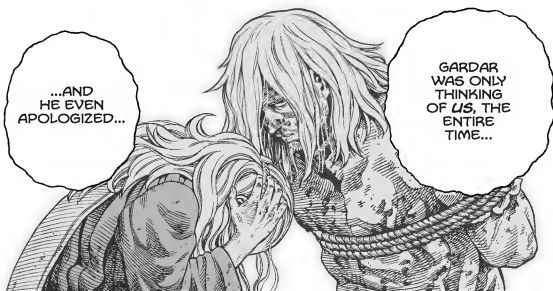
EVEN
I...
DON'T
KNOW
WHY I DID
IT.

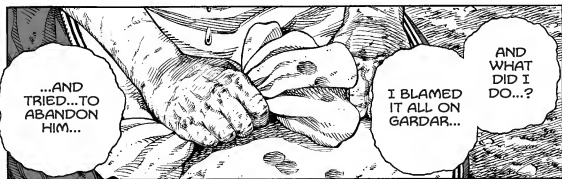


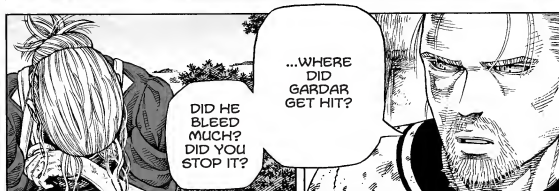
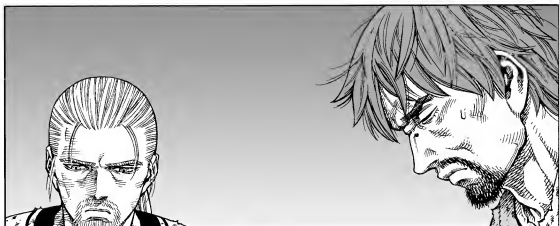
THAT
THERE
MIGHT...
BE SOME
MIRACULOUS
CHANCE...

THAT
GARDAR
AND I...
AND KETIL'S
CHILD WITHIN
ME...
MIGHT BE
ABLE TO
START OVER
AGAIN...

PERHAPS...
I WAS STILL
DREAMING...



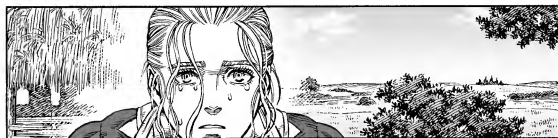






ARE YOU
PREPARED
TO TIE YOUR
FATE TO
GARDAR'S?

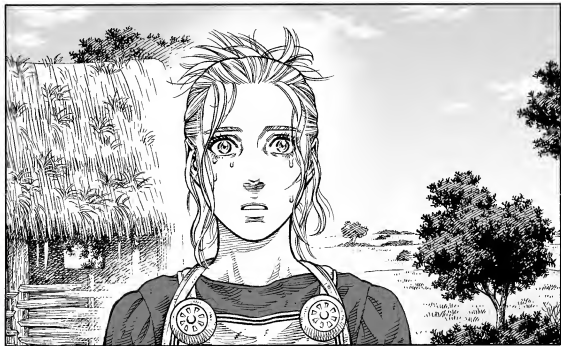
ARNHEID.

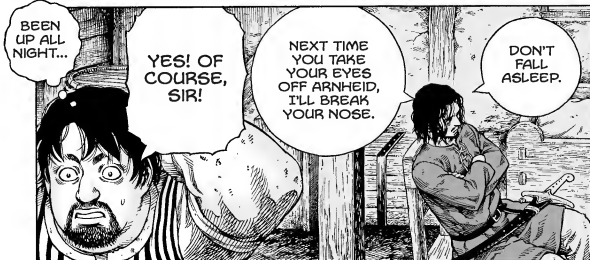
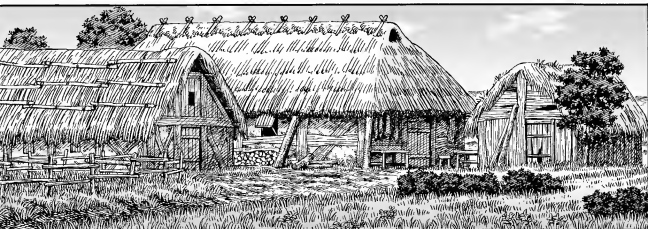


BUT YOU ARE
PREGNANT.
THAT WILL MAKE
YOUR ESCAPE
EVEN MORE
DIFFICULT THAN
IT ALREADY IS.

...YOUR
ONLY
CHOICE IS
TO GO ON
THE RUN
TOGETHER.

IF YOU
SIMPLY
CANNOT
BRING
YOURSELF
TO
ABANDON
HIM...









EVERY
MAN IN HIS
PROPER
PLACE.

PEOPLE SAY
THAT SLAVES
WERE "MEANT
TO BE SLAVES
BY THEIR
WEAKNESS."



IF YOU OR
I'D HAD
WORSE
LUCK, WE
COULD
HAVE
BEEN
SLAVES.

A SLAVE
SIMPLY
DIDN'T
HAVE
GOOD
LUCK.

I DON'T
THINK
THAT
WAY.



I WON'T
BE SATISFIED
UNTIL I'VE
KILLED THE
BASTARD
WHO DID IT.

FIVE OF
MY MEN
HAVE
BEEN
KILLED.

WHAT OF
IT? THAT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH ALL
OF THIS.



...I CAN'T
WEAR MY
SWORD
AND CALL
MYSELF A
BODYGUARD
ANYMORE.

IF I'M
NOT ABLE
TO STOP
HIM...

THIS IS
ABOUT MY
PERSONAL
HONOR.



IT'S THE
PERFECT
TIME TO
TAKE UP
A PROPER
JOB.

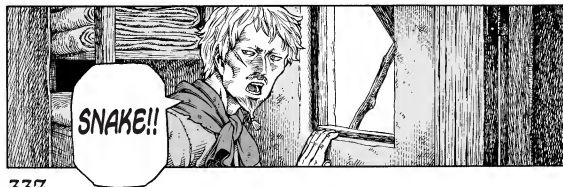
THEN GIVE
UP YOUR
STUPID
SWORD.

HMPH.



I WILL
GIVE
YOU MY
FIELDS.

LIVE A
CLEAN
LIFE,
SNAKE.







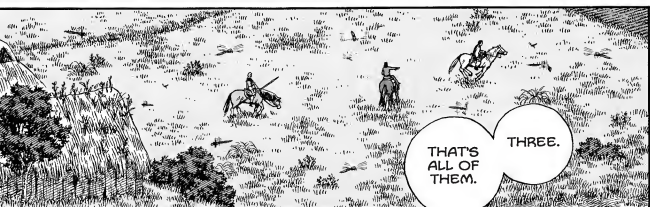
CHAPTER 85: CONFRONTATION





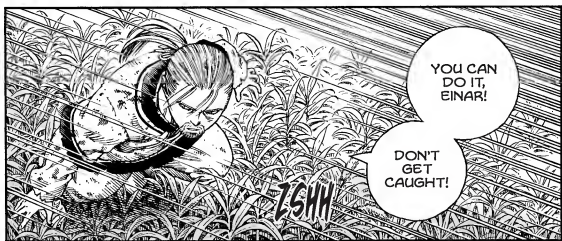
THERE
THEY
ARE!

ONE...
TWO...



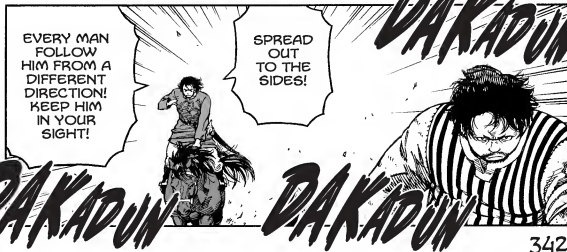
THAT'S
ALL OF
THEM.

THREE.



YOU CAN
DO IT,
EINAR!

DON'T
GET
CAUGHT!





!

THERE
HE GOES!
GARDAR'S
RACING
FOR THE
WOODS!



HURRY
AND CATCH
HIM! DON'T
LET HIM
GET IN THE
TREES!

SON OF
A BITCH!
WE CAN'T
TAKE THE
HORSES IN
THERE!

DAKADUN

DADUN



SHIT!

IT'S
SO FAR!

HWEE

HUFF



THAT'S
NOT THE
SPEED
OF A
WOUNDED
MAN...

...HE'S
TOO FAST.

DAKADUN

BUT
DON'T
GET
TOO
CLOSE!

SPIDER!
BADGER!
KEEP
FOLLOWING
HIM!

DAKADUN

I'LL COME
BACK WITH
REINFORCE-
MENTS
SOON! JUST
KEEP CHAS-
ING HIM
UNTIL THEN!
GOT THAT?!

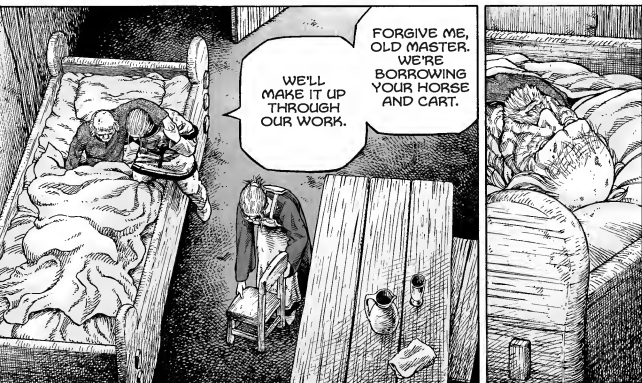
IF HE
JUST SO
HAPPENS
TO BE
GARDAR,
HE'S
BEYOND
YOUR
ABILITY!

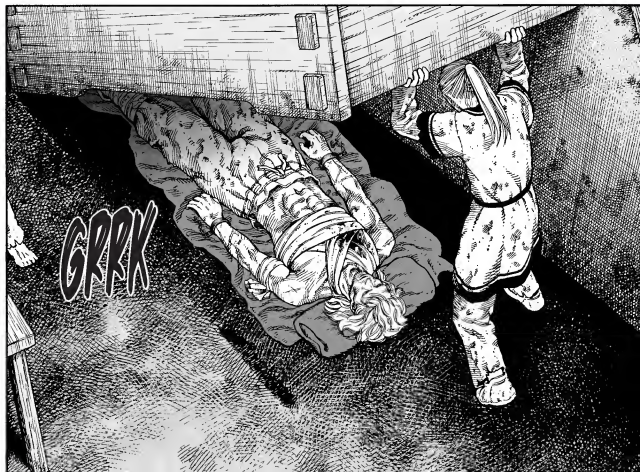
BRFF
HRFF

SNAKE?!
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?!

HUH?
BUT-

DADUN

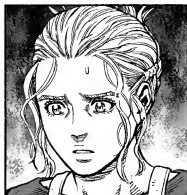






YOU
TREATED
HIM
WELL.

...AT
LEAST
HE'S
ALIVE.

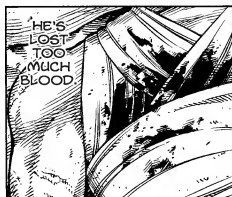


IF YOU CAN
LEAVE THE
COUNTRY,
THE GUESTS
WILL HAVE
A HARDER
TIME
FOLLOWING.

YOU'VE GOT
TO HURRY
TO THE
SOUTHERN
BORDER.



BUT HE'S
COLD AS
STONE...

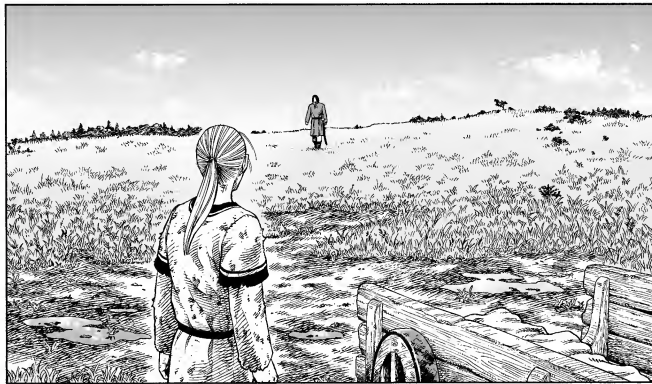


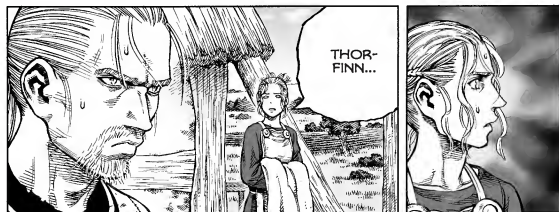
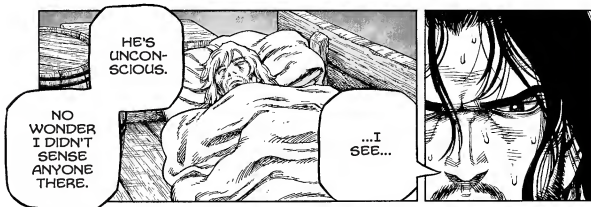
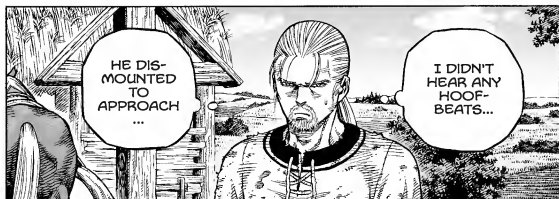
HE'S
LOST
TOO
MUCH
BLOOD



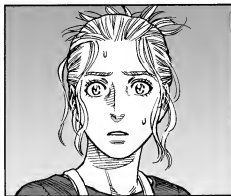
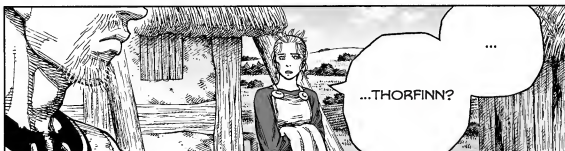
YOU NEED
TO STAY
WITH US
TO THE
EDGE
OF THE
FARM, OLD
MASTER.

I WILL
SPLIT OFF
AFTER A
TIME AND
ACT AS A
DIVERSI...







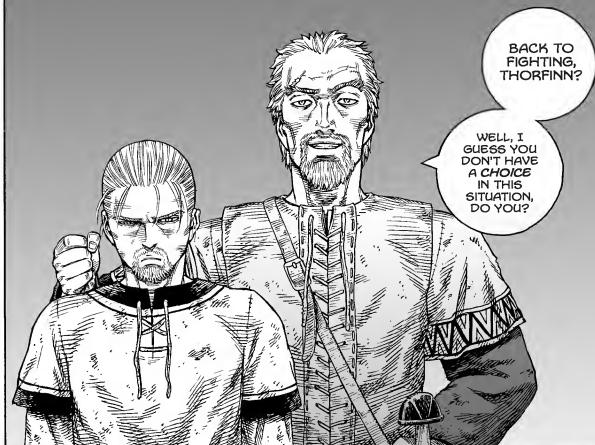


JUST
EVADE HIS
SWORD
AND HIT
HIM ON
THE
CHIN...



IF
I KNOCK
HIM OUT
AND TIE
HIM UP,
WE CAN
ESCAPE.

IT'S
JUST
SNAKE...
NO ONE
ELSE.



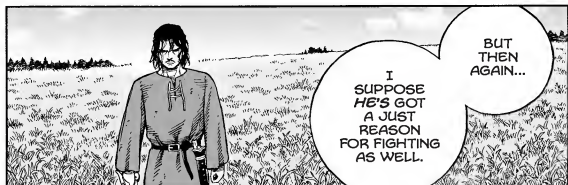
BACK TO
FIGHTING,
THORFINN?

WELL, I
GUESS YOU
DON'T HAVE
A *CHOICE*
IN THIS
SITUATION,
DO YOU?



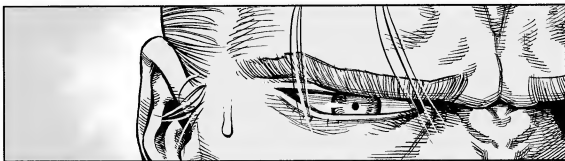
THERE'S
NO LUST
OR HATRED
BEHIND
THIS FIGHT;
IT'S PURELY
ALTRUISM.

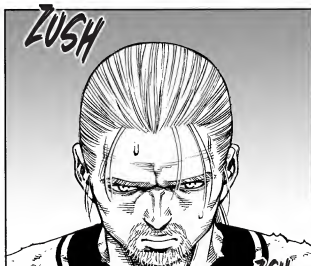
SEE?
NOW YOU
HAVE PROPER
JUSTIFICATION
FOR SWING-
ING THOSE
FISTS.



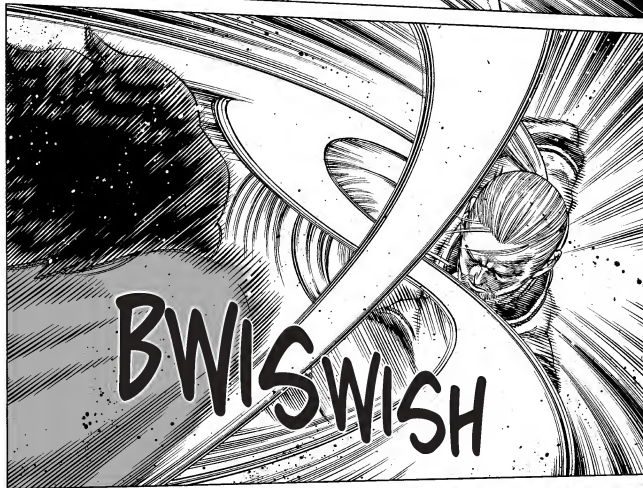
I
SUPPOSE
HE'S GOT
A JUST
REASON
FOR FIGHTING
AS WELL.

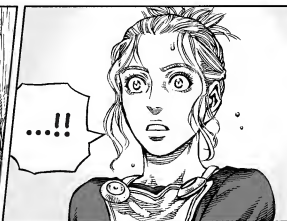
BUT
THEN
AGAIN...

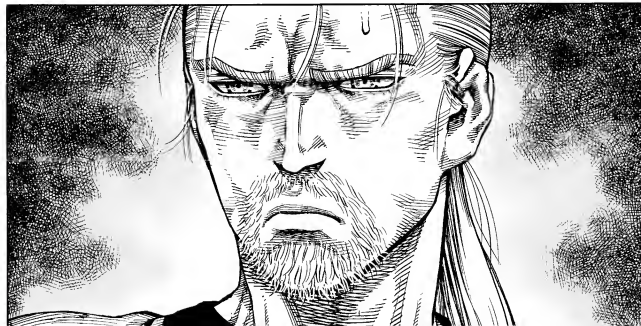






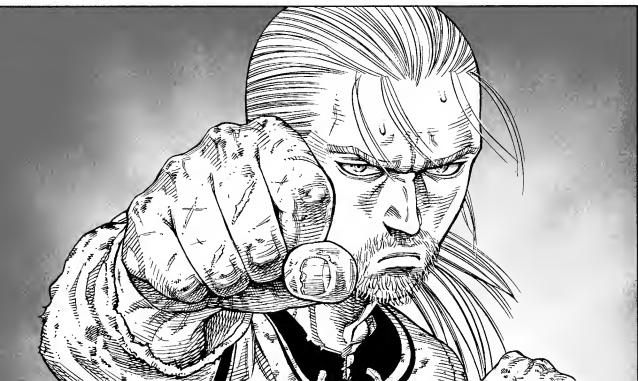




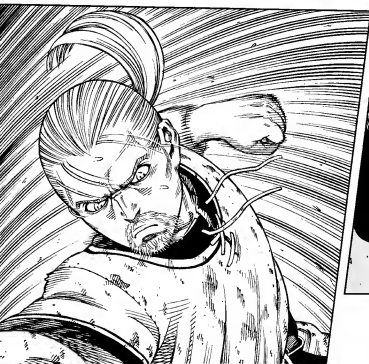
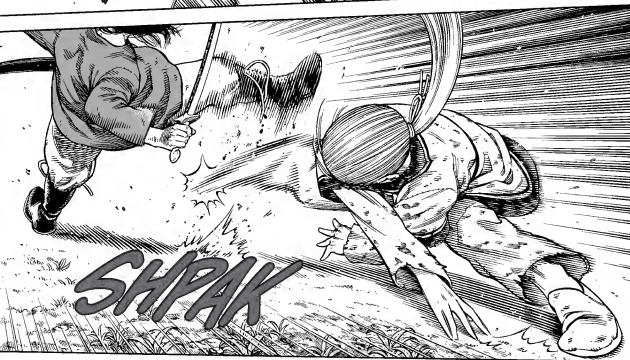


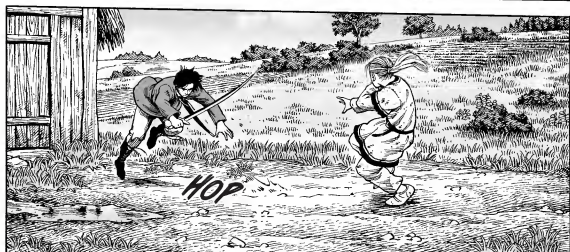
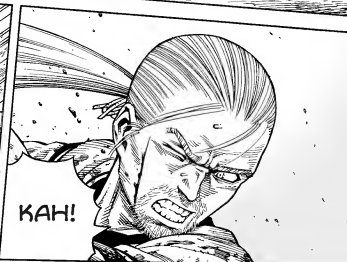
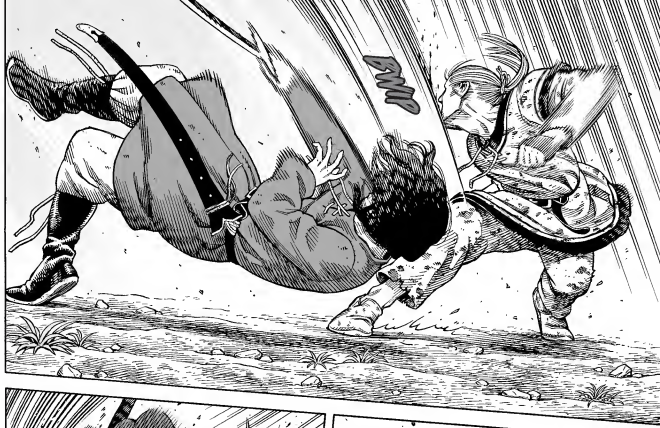


CHAPTER 86: NO GOING HOME











HE'S
TOUGH
!!

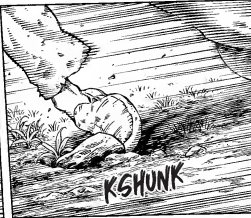
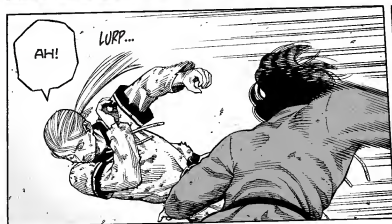
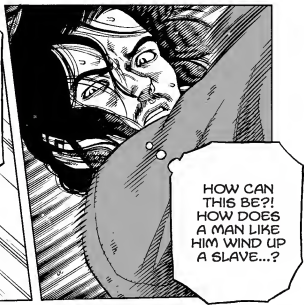
ARE
YOU
KIDDING
ME?!
AGAINST
AN
UNARMED
MAN?!

HE'S
EVADING
EVERY
SINGLE
SWIPE
OF MY
SWORD! THIS
IS UNBELIEV-
ABLE!

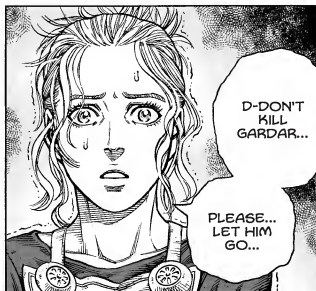
AND
THE WAY HE
COUNTERED
FROM THAT
POSITION...
HE'S GOT
INCREDIBLE
EXPERIENCE!

HE'S
FASTER
THAN
ANYONE
I'VE EVER
FOUGHT
BEFORE!

I CAN'T
EVEN
GET
CLOSE!!









YES, MY
MEN ARE
IDIOTS,
SCUM, AND
COMMON
VILLAINS
ALL!

THEY'RE
ALL OUT-
CASTS WHO
HAVE TO USE
ALIASES TO
COVER UP
FOR THEIR
FAILURES
ELSE-
WHERE!

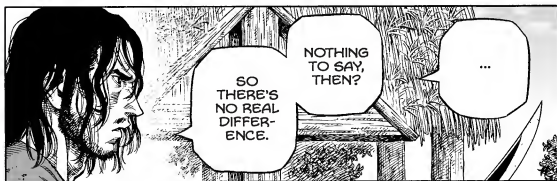
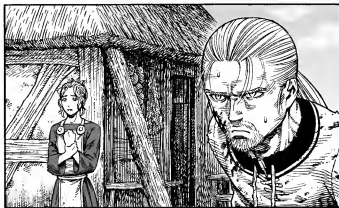
BUT
ARE YOU
SAYING
I
SHOULDN'T
CARE IF
THEY
DIE?! ARE
YOU?!

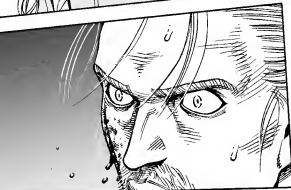


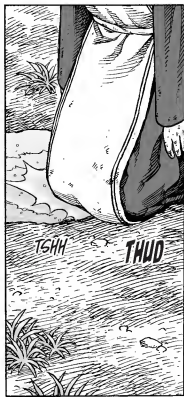
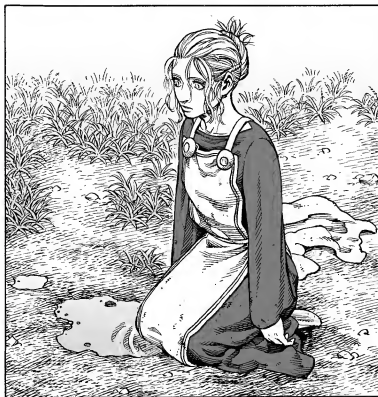
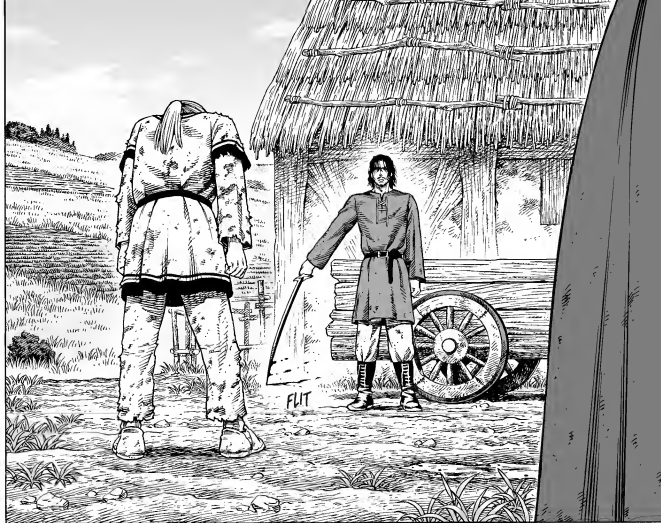
TELL ME,
THORFINN,
ARNHEID!
WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE
IN THEIR
WORTH?!

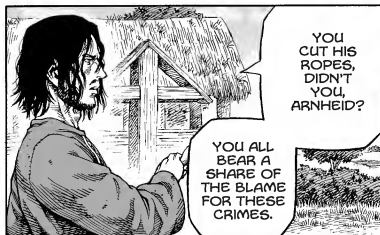
DOES
THIS
GARDAR
TRULY
HAVE A
RIGHT TO
LIVE?!

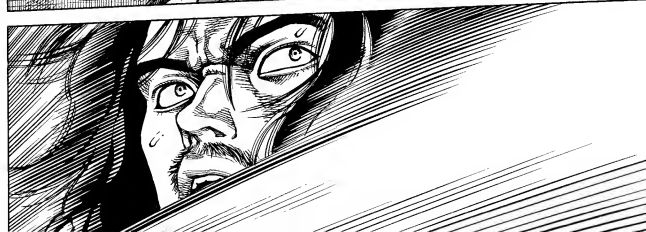
MORE
THAN
MY FIVE
MEN?!



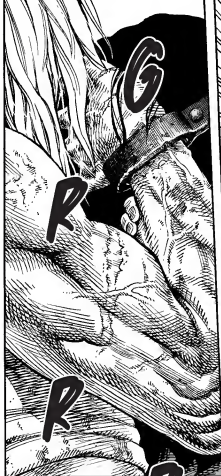


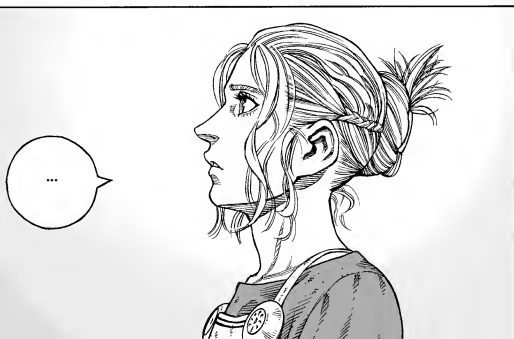


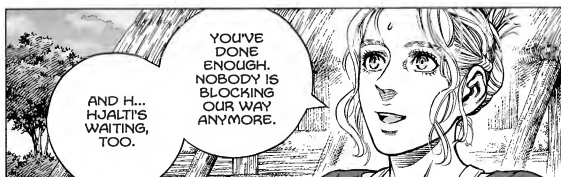




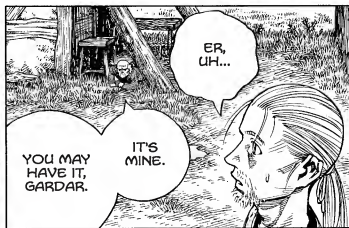
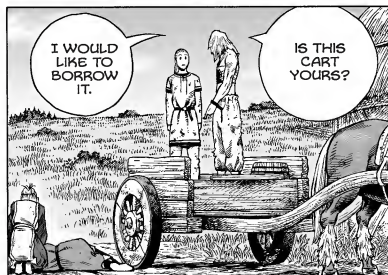
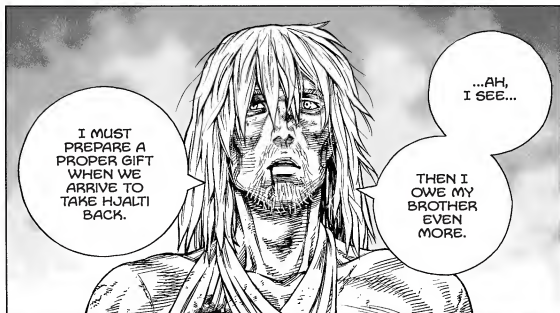


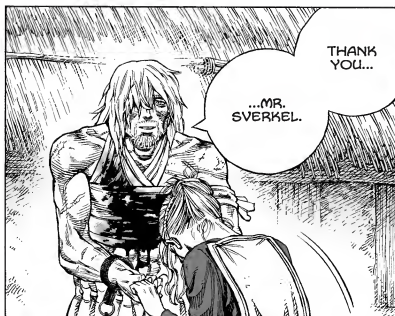












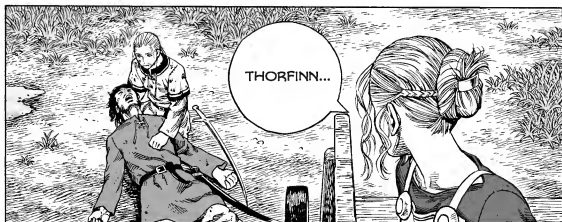
THANK
YOU...

...MR.
SVERKEL.



WHAT
IS YOUR
NAME,
SIR?

IT'S
SVERKEL.

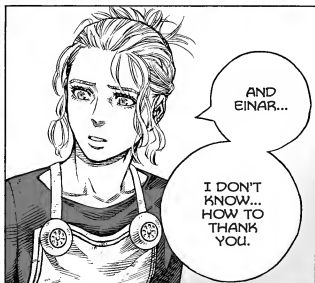


THORFINN...



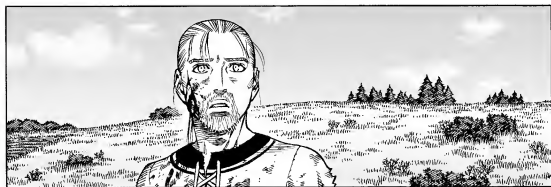
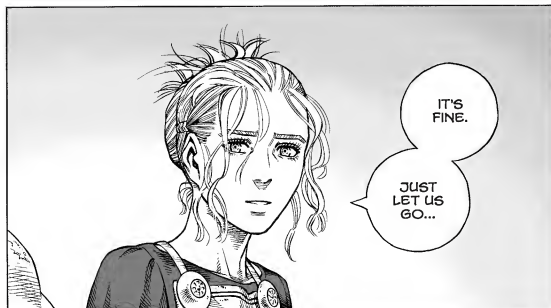
...THIS IS
MADNESS,
ARNHEID.

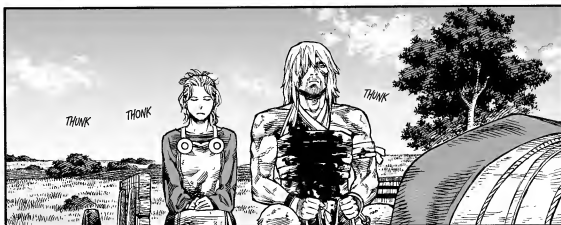
GAR-
DAR'S NOT
GOING TO
LAST...

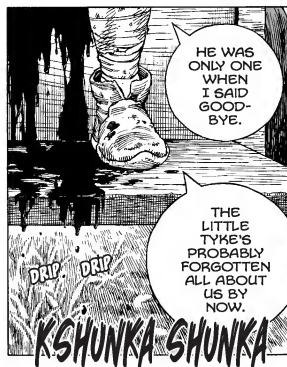
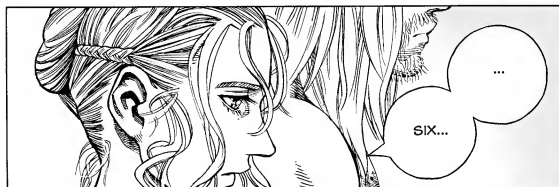


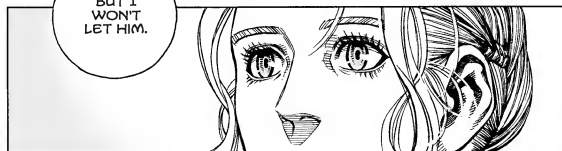
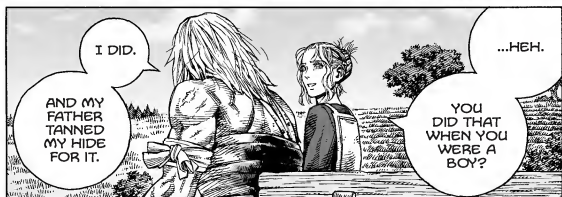
AND
EINAR...

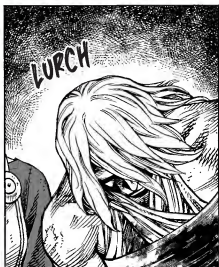
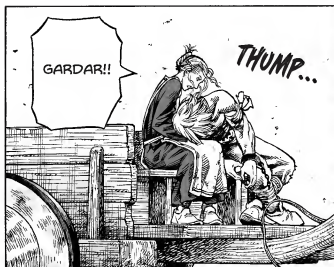
I DON'T
KNOW...
HOW TO
THANK
YOU.

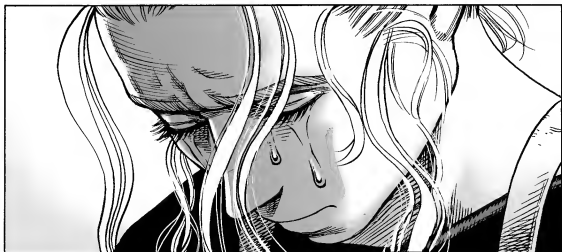
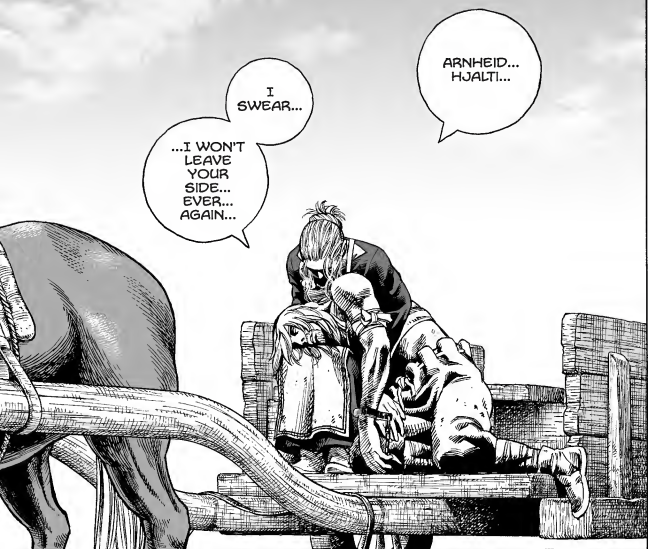


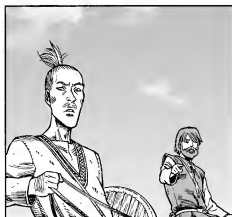












SWEDISH VILLAGE



ARNHEID



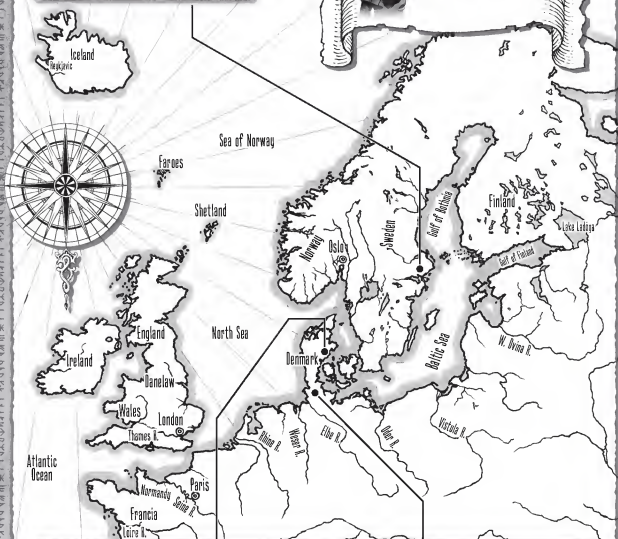
GARDAR

The place where Gardar and Arnheid lived with their son, Hjalti. A war broke out over an iron-rich swamp, and the village was raided.



VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS



JELLING

the capital of Denmark. Ketil and his sons Thorgil and Olmar were trapped in a scheme of Canute's, and needed the help of Leif Ericson's ship to escape.



CANUTE



WULF



KETIL



THORGIL



OLMAR



LEIF

KETIL'S FARM

A farm where Thorfinn works as a slave. It is invaded by Gardar, a dangerous runaway slave from a nearby farm.



THORFINN



EINAR



Snake



SVERKEL

BONUS MANGA

NEIGHBORS OF MUSHMURA VILLAGE

DRAWN BY: HAITO KUMAGAI

...THE ADORABLE, SOFT, AND FRILLY GIRLS ARE ALL CRAZY FOR SHAWLS AND PONCHOS.

AT THE VILLAGE NEXT TO MUSHMURA VILLAGE...

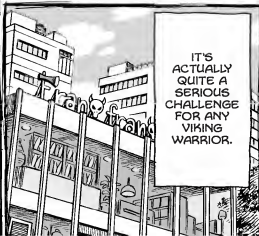


MAKE

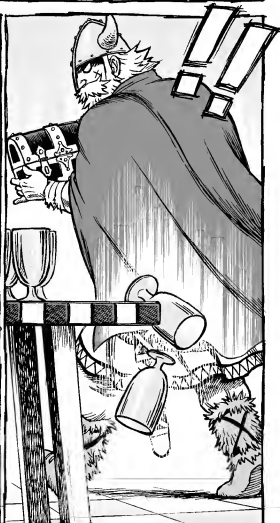
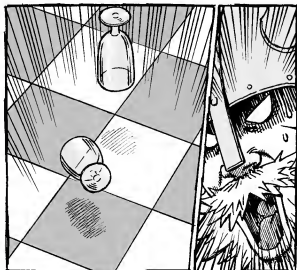
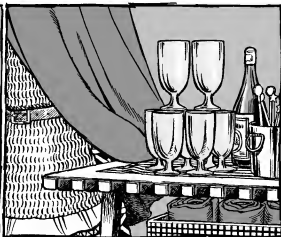
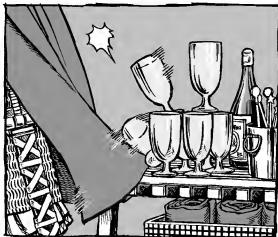
...FIND GOOD USE FOR THEM AS WELL.

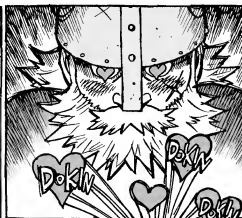


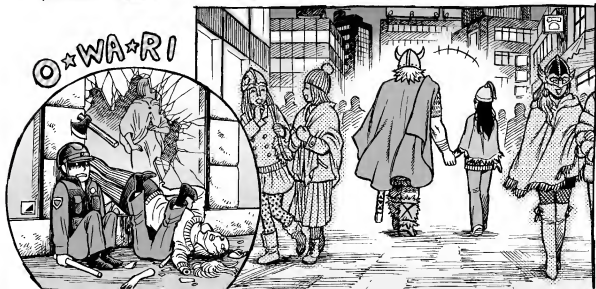
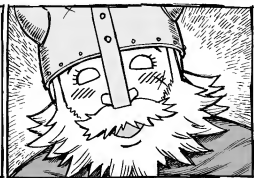
BUT THIS IS STILL A VIKRY, ROUGH- AND- TUMBLE PLUNDERING MEN...



HAITO KUMAGAI ACCORDING TO MAKOTO YUKIMURA
IF, LIKE ME, YOU'VE GOT SOME LEFTOVER PAGES TO FILL AT THE END OF YOUR
VOLUME, THIS TALENTED ASSISTANT IS YOUR MAN! KUMAGAI WHIPPED THIS UP FOR ME
IN NO TIME AT ALL. HE REALLY DOES WORK FAST. WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT HIM?







SUPPLEMENTAL
DESIGNS

SNAKE'S SWORD



In any text I consult, it always says that the Vikings loved freedom and hated control and restrictions. To them, freedom was something won and maintained by strength. There was no means to rule a Viking other than crushing him with military or economic force. "King" was just the title of the one who wielded the most power. On the flip side, this meant that those who were ruled over and lost their freedom suffered because they were too weak. In a society where power is everything, it is a matter of fact that the weakest will be slaves. It was a shared cultural understanding that those who were too weak to protect their own freedom were at fault for their plight. There was no guilt or doubt about the strong enslaving, subordinating, selling, or killing the weak. That was just the culture they lived in. So how did the kindhearted live in such a culture? There must have been some who hated the meritocracy and the punishment of the weak. It must have been very painful to have such a large gap between the customs of society and one's own sensibilities. Did they have to keep their ideas secret, and restrict themselves to silently lamenting the plight of mistreated slaves without taking action? Such a person adrift in the culture of the time must have been nameless and penniless. In fact, perhaps the only people who felt that way would've been slaves themselves. Only the strong leave their names in history; the stories of such ordinary minorities are not saved over the centuries. That's one of the more bothersome aspects of history. I just want to know.

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
ISAGA**

Translation Notes

Thegn, page 102

A personal servant of a lord or king, in this case referring to official soldiers as opposed to militia men. The definition varies depending on the time and place; for example, the Scottish thanes as seen in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* were royal officials much like counts.



ASK YUKIMURA

This exclusive Q&A with series creator Makoto Yukimura appears only in the U.S. edition of “Vinland Saga.” Future volumes will include them, too, so if you have a question you’d like to ask Mr. Yukimura, please send it to kodanshacomics@randomhouse.com, or to:

Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th floor
New York, NY 10016

Kodansha Comics: *Your impressive attention to detail in backgrounds is always something Vinland Saga fans point out to us. How much time do you typically spend on backgrounds? What do you think makes them so important to manga?*

Makoto Yukimura: The backgrounds are a job done by myself and my three staff members together. In other words, they take four times the work of the character drawings, which I do myself. One chapter of about 30 pages requires two weeks of working 12 hours a day.

I believe background drawings are quite essential. The background is the world. I don’t think you can tell a story with just the characters, divorced from the world, and I don’t think



you should. But also, I simply find it a fun task to imagine and draw what food the characters eat, what kind of houses they sleep in, what kind of environment they live in.

Even saying that, of course, we are all human, so there are mistakes scattered here and there in the background images. I can't brag too much. In the future, it's all up to the extent of my diligence, too.

Kodansha Comics: *You said previously that one of the reasons you decided to draw Vinland Saga was because you wanted to address the theme of violence. Was there an event in your life or in the world that made you want to write about this theme?*

Makoto Yukimura: It's not that there was any specific experience or event that made me want to write about the theme of violence.



It's just that, in the hero manga of my beloved Japan, no matter what the story is, most of the protagonists are the strongest in that they are the best at doing violence. Meanwhile, the characters who aren't skilled with violence are portrayed as weak. So the story unfolds with

the hero repeatedly beating up the bad guys, one after another. Usually, no matter what happens, it's difficult for the hero to escape this destiny.

But what would happen to a hero manga if the protagonist really wished he could escape from this fate of violence? Could you still tell that story without it losing its entertainment value? I decided that I wanted to try that out.

That's one of the many reasons I chose violence as a theme.



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***Vinland Saga* volume 6**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY AND ART BY MAKOTO YUKIMURA

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